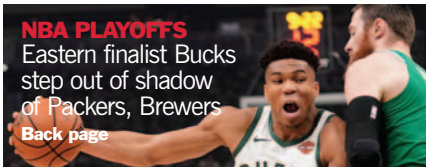


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IRAN TENSIONS

Report: US could deploy 120K troops if attacked

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon has drafted plans to send up to 120,000 troops to the Middle East in the event Iran launches an attack on U.S. forces in the region or restarts its nuclear weapons program, The New York Times reported.

President Donald Trump dismissed the report as "fake news," but added, "Would I do that? Absolutely." He insisted the White House has not signed off on a troop increase but if it does "we'd send a hell of a lot more troops than that."

The size of the purported force — 120,000 troops is roughly the number the U.S. used to invade Iraq in 2003 — has shocked some officials inside the Trump administration, the Times reported Monday, citing unnamed national security officials. The Times did not say the plan had been accepted but reported that it had been presented by acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan at a meeting of Trump's top aides last week.

The report comes as tensions between Washington and Tehran have risen following what officials citing classified intelligence said were signs of possible threats to U.S. forces or interests in the region. It is not clear whether Trump himself has been briefed on the Pentagon plan. The Trump administration has warned that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting ships in the Persian Gulf

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■ Saudis say oil pipeline was attacked by drones

■ Spain says its removal of frigate from exercise with US fleet not rebuke

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Shifting tide

Cultural change is
helping Navy retain
talented mothers

BY BROCK VERGAKIS
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va.
Lt. Cmdr. Karen Sankes-Ritland never imagined life outside the military.

Her father was a Marine. Her husband is an explosive ordnance disposal officer. She's a Naval Academy graduate.

But more than a decade into her career, the strains of family life and a dual-military household were taking a toll. Her father had died recently, her third child needed open-heart surgery and she was pregnant with her fourth child. Meanwhile, her husband was scheduled to deploy soon.

"I just felt like I was starting to drown," she said.

Something had to change. She needed a break. But she didn't want to leave the Navy.

So after her fourth child's arrival in 2016, she took advantage of a program that lets enlisted sailors and officers take a sabbatical. For a year, she was a stay-at-home mom.

"I will forever be grateful for that year off because that was a very important time for me to be able to spend that time with my very young children," she said. "And I can tell you stay-at-home moms definitely have a really tough job. Very tough, but very rewarding."

SEE SHIFTING ON PAGE 5

Lt. Cmdr. Karen Sankes-Ritland dons hearing protection before a 50-caliber machine gun live-fire exercise aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush in 2018. Sankes-Ritland, the Bush's training officer and a mother of four, credits the Navy's Career Intermission Program with making her a better officer.

JOE BOGgio/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



MILITARY

Pentagon considers request for more border assistance

By MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

Pentagon officials are considering a new request for military assistance along the southern border, a defense official said Monday, after the Department of Homeland Security asked for help housing and caring for thousands of migrants.

The latest DHS request, first reported over the weekend by journalists accompanying acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan on a trip to the border, comes as lawmakers voice frustration about the Pentagon's expanding role in President Donald Trump's border policies, including the effort to curtail a surge in migrant crossings.

A defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a proposal that has not yet

been approved, said the request asks the Defense Department to provide or construct shelter for at least 5,000 migrants and to provide "wraparound services," including food and other care.

Officials are examining whether the migrants would be housed in existing military facilities or whether tents or other structures would be put in place to shelter them, the official said. If the request is approved, the migrants could be taken to a single facility or multiple sites.

Additional details about the request come only days after the Pentagon announced it would shift \$1.5 billion in existing military programs to fund construction of Trump's border wall. Democratic lawmakers decried the move, saying the decision to reallocate funding without prior consultation "ignored decades of

precedent and cooperation with the Congress."

The official said the steps to house migrants, if approved, would be paid for out of previously reallocated funds. In April, Shanahan approved a Department of Health and Human Services request to identify military facilities where migrant children could be placed if necessary.

Lawmakers from both parties have voiced concerns that the military's expanding involvement could detract from other priorities, including restoring military readiness and repairing storm damage to bases.

The military has gradually expanded its military mission along the border, where there are now more than 4,000 active-duty and National Guard troops. To help border agents deal with a crush of people seeking to cross, Pentagon



ROBERT BURNS/AP

Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan, left, speaks with troops near McAllen, Texas, about the military's role in support of the Department of Homeland Security's effort to secure the southwest border. At right is Kevin McAleenan, acting DHS secretary.

leaders have also granted limited exceptions to a long-standing policy that prevents servicemembers from coming into contact with migrants.

In a Fox News interview that aired Monday, Shanahan responded to critics of the Pentagon's involvement in the administration's migrant response, saying there is a "crisis at the border."

"The commander in chief has given me a direct legal order to secure the border," he said. "I'm securing the border."

Pentagon officials are now attempting to chart out a two-year plan that would anticipate DHS and law enforcement needs so that the military does not have to respond to a steady stream of requests.

Trump officials said to discuss mass arrests of migrant families

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security officials considered arresting thousands of migrant families who had final deportation orders and removing them from the U.S. in a flashy show of force, but the idea was tabled as the Trump administration grappled with straining resources and a growing number of Central Americans crossing the border.

Two Homeland Security officials and two other people familiar with the pro-

posal described it to The Associated Press. They were not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

The idea was to arrest parents and children in 10 cities with large populations of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, specifically New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, they said, without naming others.

The proposal, first reported by The Washington Post, was meant to send a message and possibly deter others from coming across the border, they said.

But then-Immigrations and Customs Enforcement head Ron Vitiello and then-

Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen put the proposal aside over concerns about diverting resources from the border, a lack of detention space and the possibility of renewed public outrage over treatment of families.

The Trump administration separated children from parents at the southern border last summer, a move that prompted mass outrage and criticism that the U.S. was abandoning its humanitarian role and harming children. Immigration experts say the separations, which were halted last June, did little to stop migrant crossings and, in fact, may have prompted more

people to come.

The number of border crossings has risen dramatically in the past few months to more than 100,000 per month. More than half are families who cannot be easily sent back to their home countries. Border officials say they are out of resources and manpower and can't keep up.

The tabled plan — it remains under consideration — included fast-tracking immigration cases to allow judges to order deportations for those who didn't show up for hearings. It also prioritized the newest cases in order to deport people faster.

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PACIFIC

N. Korea calls seizing of cargo ship 'robbery'

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Tuesday accused the United States of "robbery" for seizing a cargo ship and demanded the vessel's return in the latest sign of rising tensions that threaten to scuttle nuclear talks.

The Wise Honest — detained in April 2018 while en route to Indonesia — was towed to the U.S. territory of American Samoa over the weekend so it can be inspected. The U.S. Justice Department has said it suspects the ship was used to evade international sanctions.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry claimed the seizure violates the spirit of leader Kim

Jong Un's agreement with President Donald Trump during their first summit last year to try to improve bilateral relations.

"The U.S. should carefully consider what consequences will follow in the current situation following their flagrant robbery and return our ship without delay," the ministry was quoted as saying in the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

American officials allege the ship was used to export coal and import heavy machinery in violation of sanctions, which were imposed to punish the communist state for its banned nuclear weapons program.

The Justice Department didn't announce the ship's seizure until last week following a missile test by North Korea.

The North fired two short-range missiles into the sea on Thursday — the second such launch in five days — in what was seen as a warning that its patience was wearing thin over the lack of progress in talks since the second summit between the two countries collapsed without agreement in late February.

The ship's seizure hits at one of the key sticking points, which is the North's desire for a reciprocal approach to talks that includes sanctions relief in return for disarmament steps already taken.

The Trump administration insists on maintaining its policy dubbed "maximum pressure" until denuclearization is achieved.

"The strategy with North Korea hasn't

changed," acting U.S. Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said in an interview with Fox News that was broadcast Monday. "It's a diplomatic one, but it's about full denuclearization.

"My job is to make sure that we're prepared in the event diplomacy fails," he added. "There's no change to our force posture, our force preparation and our readiness."

Trump and Kim agreed to a vague promise to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" during their first summit on June 12 in Singapore but talks have since stalled due to stark differences over how to achieve that goal.

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Rare Asiatic black bear cub discovered in Korean DMZ

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A rare Asiatic black bear cub has been photographed while crossing a stream in the Demilitarized Zone, highlighting the heavily fortified Korean border area's role as a unique haven for wildlife.

The photo of the bear, which was captured by a motion sensor camera in October, emerged as the fate of the DMZ is in question amid efforts to improve relations between the two Koreas and persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons.

The 2.5-mile-wide, 155-mile-long strip of land has been largely a no-go zone for more than six decades due to land mines and barbed wire-lined fences in place since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Untouched by development, animals and plants have thrived with little human contact in the protected ecosystem that includes wetlands, forests, mountains and coastlines.

The bear is believed to have been about 8 months old, judging by its size, and most likely has parents and a sibling nearby, South Korea's Environmental Ministry said as it released the image last week. The military, which monitors the cameras, handed over the photo in April.

The ministry also released a



Courtesy of South Korea's Ministry of Environment

This rare Asiatic black bear cub was photographed while crossing a stream in the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

separate video it said was taken in 2016 showing a presumably different black bear along with other animals.

The ministry estimates that the area has an estimated 6,168 species of fauna and flora, including 102 considered endangered in South Korea, based on recent surveys and data gathered since 1974. Those include black-faced spoonbills, white-naped cranes, red-crowned cranes, musk deer, mountain goats and others.

The National Institute of Eco-

logy also had 92 unmanned surveillance cameras installed in the area in 2014.

Yoo Seung-gwang, a ministry official, called the sightings "very meaningful" considering the limited information that's available about life in the area.

"The great ecological value of the DMZ has been proven once again by the confirmation of the Asiatic black bear," he said in a May 7 press release. "We're planning to ... prepare comprehensive measures for the systematic pres-

ervation and management of the DMZ in the future."

Asiatic black bears, distinguished by a white patch on their chest and known by the Latin name *Ursus thibetanus*, are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list of threatened species.

They're also considered endangered in South Korea, where the population has rebounded from five in 2001 to 61 today thanks to a national recovery effort, according to the ministry.

Soldiers have reported seeing the bears in the DMZ before, but the photo provides proof.

"I think this is absolutely significant because seeing is believing," Seung-ho Lee, the South Korean-born co-founder of the New York-based conservationist DMZ Forum said. "We talk much, but one picture of this bear is arousing a lot of interest."

Nature has been threatened on both sides of the border due to rapid industrialization in the post-war South and foraging for fuel and food in the North, Lee said Tuesday in a telephone interview, calling the DMZ an "accidental paradise."

The bear isn't alone. Lee said footprints have been seen indicating other big mammals like tigers and leopards may be in the area.

"But people need to see the actual animal so it's absolutely fascinating that the actual image of the black bear was captured inside the DMZ, not outside the

DMZ," he said.

Lee and others expressed concern that peace may be as much of a danger to the area as war, stressing the need to carefully manage any development.

The DMZ Forum has proposed designating the eastern section of the DMZ — which is the most remote, with mountains on both sides — as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The central section could be used for sustainable ecotourism and a possible peace memorial to commemorate the thousands of soldiers from all sides who were lost there during the war.

The western section, which includes the true village of Panmunjom and is closest to Seoul, could be turned into a peace park, Lee said.

"The two Koreas need to cooperate by protecting this region," he said, while acknowledging that the fate of the DMZ is low on the government's priority list.

President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to disarm the DMZ and turn it into a tourism mecca during their first summit on April 27, 2018.

The initiative has stalled as nuclear talks stalled and recent missile tests by the North threaten to revive tensions.

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No evidence of shots fired following lockdown at Yokota Air Base

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Parts of the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo were locked down for an hour based on reports of shots fired Tuesday morning.

However, security personnel and Japanese police found no evidence of firearms being discharged on or off base, according to the 374th Airlift Wing.

Starting at 1:26 a.m., the Air Force base was blanketed with "real world" notices of a lockdown on Yokota's west side via Face-

book, mobile apps and the basewide public address system.

The wing issued an initial statement at noon saying unverified "reports of shots heard" were under investigation and that security officers were responding.

Base officials issued an "all clear" notice just before 12:30 p.m.

"Security Forces conducted foot and vehicle-based sweeps of the area inside of the base and the Japanese National Police swept the area outside of the base," according to a statement from the wing. "There were no indications of firearm discharges, and there were no injuries."

Some sources on base reported the sounds may have been caused by a car backfiring or special cannons used to scare wildlife away from aircraft, public affairs officials said. Such cannons make threatening sounds, such as predator calls or explosions.

Four of Yokota's five active gates were closed until 12:23 p.m., when the "all clear" message was sent out. Only the east gate, far from the site of the incident, remained open during the lockdown as lines of traffic formed at other access points.

Yokota's west side — separated from the main base by a four-lane Japanese high-

way called Route 16 — is home to housing, an elementary school, child care and community centers, a bowling alley, vehicle operations and an auto care center, among other facilities.

The 374th Airlift Wing and a few other units are participating in a readiness exercise this week, public affairs officials said in a separate email.

"Exercises like these allow us to test our ability to survive and operate during scenarios posed to our forces in a contingency environment," the message said.

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MIDEAST

Saudis: Drones attacked oil infrastructure sites

BY AYA BATRAWY
AND JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia said drones attacked one of its oil pipelines as other assaults targeted energy infrastructure elsewhere in the kingdom on Tuesday, shortly after Yemen's rebels claimed a coordinated drone attack on the Sunni power.

The assaults marked the latest incidents challenging Mideast security after the alleged sabotage of oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates earlier this week amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

Yemen's Houthi rebels, whom Saudi Arabia has been fighting since March 2015, said they launched a series of drone attacks on the kingdom, said the spokesman of the rebels, Mohammed Abdel-Salam, told The Associated Press, "This is a message to Saudi Arabia; stop your aggression."

"Our goal is to respond to the crimes they are committing every day against the Yemeni people," he added.

In a statement carried on the state-run Saudi Press Agency, Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said that drones attacked a petroleum pumping station supplying a pipeline running from its oil-rich Eastern Province to the Yanbu Port on the Red Sea.

A fire broke out and firefighters later brought it under control, though the state-run Saudi Aramco stopped pumping oil through the pipeline.

The kingdom's state security body also said two petroleum pumping stations in the greater region of Riyadh, the landlocked capital, were targeted at the same time. The statement described it as a "limited targeting" of petroleum stations in al-Duadmi and Aff in the Riyadh region, without elaborating.

Al-Falih called the attack "cowardly," saying that recent sabotage acts against the kingdom's

'This is a message to Saudi Arabia; stop your aggression.'

Mohammed Abdel-Salam
spokesman for Yemen's Houthi rebels

vital installations target not only Saudi Arabia but the safety of the world's energy supply and global economy. He said that reaffirms the need of the international community to confront the activities of groups like the Houthis. He also promised the production and export of Saudi oil would not be interrupted.

Benchmark Brent crude traded at \$71 a barrel Tuesday, up \$1.27 on the day.

The attack on Saudi oil targets comes after four oil tankers anchored in the Mideast were damaged by what Gulf officials described as sabotage, though satellite images obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday showed no major visible damage to the vessels.

Details of the alleged sabotage to two Saudi, one Norwegian and one Emirati oil tanker on Sunday remained unclear, and Gulf officials have declined to say who they suspected was responsible. But it demonstrated the raised risks for shippers in a region vital to global energy supplies as tensions are increasing between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

The U.S. has warned sailors of the potential for attacks on commercial sea traffic, and regional allies of the United Arab Emirates condemned the alleged sabotage as the tankers were off the coast of the UAE port city of Fujairah.

A U.S. official in Washington, without offering any evidence, told the AP that an American military team's initial assessment indicated Iran or Iranian allies used explosives to blow holes in the ships. The official, who was not

authorized to discuss the investigation, agreed to reveal the findings only if not quoted by name. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols the Mideast and operates from a base in Fujairah, has repeatedly declined to comment.

The U.S. already had warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region. America is deploying the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter threats from Iran, which has repeatedly declined to comment.

Citing heightened tensions in the region, the United Nations called on "all concerned parties to exercise restraint for the sake of regional peace, including by ensuring maritime security" and freedom of navigation, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

Tensions in the region have risen since President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and restored U.S. sanctions that have pushed Iran's economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at high levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

The oil tankers were visible in satellite images provided Tuesday to the AP by Colorado-based Maxar Technologies. A boom surrounded the Emirati oil tanker A. Mical, indicating the possibility of an oil leak. The other three showed no visible major damage from above.

Yemen plunged into civil war in 2014 when Iran-backed rebels captured the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015 to help government troops facing the Houthis advance. The U.S. supported the coalition for years despite its airstrikes killing civilians, and is only recently beginning to step back after the October killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul by Saudi agents.



Courtesy of NATO

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, center, talks to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Monday. The group discussed U.S. concerns over Iran.

Report: Large-scale conflict with Iran remote, analyst says

FROM FRONT PAGE

region. Saudi Arabia said this week that two of its oil tankers were sabotaged off the United Arab Emirates in attacks that caused "substantial damage."

In Europe, there are concerns that the U.S. and Iran could stumble into a military confrontation.

"We are very worried about the risk of a conflict happening by accident, with an escalation that is unintended really on either side but ends with some kind of conflict," British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told reporters in Brussels.

European diplomats and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg convened with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Monday to discuss the Trump administration's concerns over Iran.

"What we need is a period of calm to make sure that everyone understands what the other side is thinking," Hunt said.

While Washington has upped the pressure, it's still unclear whether Trump, who campaigned on an anti-interventionist platform and repeatedly denounced the Iraq war as a blunder, is willing to get drawn into another military confrontation in the Middle East.

Some analysts say the chances of a large-scale conflict are still remote.

"Public support for major U.S. interventions in the region has clearly declined over the past decade and the U.S., no matter what administration is in office or what is its policy toward Iran, is not likely to further intervene militarily in any regional conflict for the sole reason of blunting the impact of Iran's regional strategy," said an analysis by the Soufan Center, a New York-based security firm.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has expedited deployments to the region in connection with increased concerns about potential Iranian aggression. Last week, the Pentagon ordered a Patriot missile battery and an amphibious transport dock warship to the Middle East. That follows the deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group and

a task force of B-52 bombers into the region.

U.S. military officials have said there is an elevated threat level facing U.S. troops deployed in Iraq and Syria — primarily emanating from Iran-controlled Shiite militias. There also are threats at sea in the Persian Gulf region, where U.S. officials have observed Iranian-controlled vessels transporting military hardware including missiles.

Over the weekend, four commercial ships anchored near the United Arab Emirates were damaged in what U.S. military investigators believe may have been attacks carried out by Iran or its proxies, The Associated Press reported. Iran has denied involvement.

The rhetoric between Washington and Tehran also has become increasingly heated. Last year, tensions spiked when the Trump administration decided to pull out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and impose new sanctions.

Since then, Iranian political and military leaders have repeatedly threatened to target U.S. military assets in the region if Washington sought to prevent Tehran from exporting its crude oil. The Trump administration last month ended waivers from sanctions for several major importers of Iranian oil.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has warned it would take military action if Iran acted upon a threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic energy choke point through which millions of barrels of oil pass each day.

Washington also has accused Iran of being the main destabilizing force in the Middle East, backing proxy forces in Syria and Yemen that the U.S. opposes.

The State Department designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, which recruits and trains militants to fight in proxy forces, as a terrorist organization last month. In response, lawmakers in Tehran declared U.S. troops terrorists and called the U.S. a state sponsor of terrorism.

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Spain says frigate peeling off from US fleet is not a rebuke

Associated Press

MADRID — Spain's decision to remove a frigate on training exercises from a U.S. combat fleet that is approaching the Persian Gulf was taken purely for "technical reasons," the country's defense minister said Tuesday.

Margarita Robles insisted the decision was "not an expression of distaste" over the crossing into the Strait of Hormuz by the fleet headed by the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier.

The U.S. fleet is heading to the Persian Gulf at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Robles insisted Spain's decision was "prudent" and "perfectly admissible" under the terms of a two-year cooperation agreement that placed the Mendez Nuñez frigate with the U.S. fleet for advanced training. The ship and its 215 people on board have headed to Mumbai, India, she said.

"The United States government has embarked on a mission

that wasn't scheduled when the agreement was signed," Robles told reporters during an official trip to Brussels.

She said Spain had never given its blessing for the frigate to go on a mission in the Persian Gulf and that it will return to the U.S. fleet once scheduled operations resume.

She declined to comment on the U.S. hard-line policy toward Iran but said Spain remains a reliable and committed member of NATO.

MILITARY

Shifting: Program one of series of family-centered changes

FROM FRONT PAGE

She returned to the Navy in 2017 and now serves as the training officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush. The time off rejuvenated her. She said it made her a better officer.

"If I had stayed in, I honestly don't think I would be where I'm at right now," she said. "And that's due to needing the ability to take care of my family. And if I can't take care of my personal life, it would be very hard for me to perform in my professional life."

Sankes-Ritland is one of 217 sailors who have used or are using the Career Intermission Program since it was first offered as a pilot program in 2009, with 79 of those choosing to take time off for family reasons that could include having or adopting a child or taking care of an ill parent, according to Naval Personnel Command. Sailors can take up to three years off but must serve an additional month after they return for every month they've been gone.

The program is one of a series of changes the Navy has recently made to be more accommodating to working parents in an effort to retain talented sailors. Surveys show the top reasons people leave the service are the Navy's impact on the family, on their ability to have or adopt children and work-life balance.

But some working mothers say they've seen a cultural shift over the past 20 years in how leadership treats sailors with children. A 2018 survey indicated that women planning to remain in the Navy were more likely to have children than those who are undecided or planning to separate from the service.

In recent years, the Navy has extended the hours child care is available, doubled its maternity leave to 12 weeks and removed the 40-person cap on the number of people who can go on sabbatical each year. Leaders — many of whom are women with children — are being taught the importance of making sure those they're in charge of are taking care of their home lives so they're not distracted on a job whose lives are at stake. Sometimes, the Navy now says, a family issue needs to take priority.

"The bottom line is that women can be wives, mothers and sailors all at the same time," said Lt. Cmdr. Jessica McNulty, a spokeswoman for Navy Recruiting Command, which is specifically targeting women to join the service.

Other efforts to be more supportive include an update to the Navy's Pregnancy and Parenthood Mobile App, the creation of a "Breastfeeding in the Navy" campaign and a new Command Advisor on Pregnancy and Parenthood that's designed to support parents and normalize conversations on parenthood in the Navy, according to Chief of Naval Personnel spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Stuart Phillips.

Chief Petty Officer Renea Powers, a Virginia Beach, Va.-based Riverine with three children



MICHAEL LOPEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Builder 2nd Class Janelle Bencic, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, prepares to embrace her daughter at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, Calif., as she returned last month to homeport following a six-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific region.



JACOB SHIPLEY, NAVAL HOSPITAL JACKSONVILLE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Ensign Pauline Gachalian hands a newborn boy to his mother, Petty Officer 2nd Class Emily Smith, at Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Maternal Infant Unit.

ages 17 to 4, said the Navy treated working mothers much differently when she had her first child.

"It wasn't very conducive to women wanting to stay in. A lot of the females around me who were pregnant, like as soon as they had their baby and their time was up, they were getting out," Powers said.

Powers had praise for the extended hours and level of care offered at the Navy's child development centers, as well as how affordable they are. Sailors are charged on a sliding scale based on their pay, but it's not uncommon for sailors to pay half the price for day care that they would at a comparable accredited private facility.

Powers sends her youngest

child to one of the Navy's centers. The only problem is that the centers can't handle more children, she said. Wait lists to get in are common. Each center maintains low caretaker-to-child ratios and they're limited in how many children they can accept.

The one for Naval Station Norfolk, Va., can handle 300 children and is at capacity. The wait list has 300 names on it. The children of active-duty sailors and single parents get priority.

The Navy also offers a 24/7 care program for sailors who work overnight watches. That program can handle 20 children and offers to certify in-home caretakers that may allow children to have more personal attention closer to where they live.

Chief Petty Officer Sheri Bergeman, who works at Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, was someone who thought about getting out of the Navy after she had the first of her three children. But she stayed in largely because she and her husband still had contracts to serve and she was able to transfer to shore duty. When she had her first two children, she got only six weeks off.

But for her third child, she got 12 weeks.

"It's important to have that additional time for bonding. So six weeks, you're going back to work, you kind of have a little bit of resentment, like, 'Oh, my gosh, I don't spend this time with my baby.' Your mind is not at work," she said. "You're there, but you're really not focused."

Bergeman would spend her lunch hours at the day care with her baby "because that's where my heart was. That's where my mind was."

For her, the Navy's new extended-leave policy also came with another benefit: paternity leave. For her third child, her husband was also able to take time off work and take some of the burden off her.

"You have a baby and you're tired," she said. "You're up all that time. So having them there to be able to care for the baby and, you know, be awake — that's huge."

Since June, the Navy also has offered more flexibility in its parental leave policy by allowing the primary caregiver to take six weeks off even if it's not the birth parent. It also increased time off for the secondary caregiver from 10 days to 14.

The service "recognizes the diversity of our Navy families," Phillips said. "As our dual-military, dual-income, same-sex and single-parent families continue to grow, so must our focus on family-friendly policies."

"The bottom line is that women can be wives, mothers and sailors all at the same time."

Lt. Cmdr. Jessica McNulty
Navy Recruiting Command spokeswoman

Bergeman said she'd like to see the Navy help more women who can't have children by paying for in vitro fertilization. "Right now, that's not covered," she said. "I think that would be huge because there are a lot of women that want to have children that can't. I'd like to see the Navy actually support that."

Sankes-Ritland believes the Navy is on the right track. She's especially a fan of the sabbatical program.

"I am a huge proponent of it," she said.

She talks up the program to other women sailors, especially single moms. "I always let them know that there are these opportunities and resources everywhere in the Navy that you can take advantage of," she said.

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NATION

Source: Barr opens 2nd investigation into Russia probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William Barr has appointed a U.S. attorney to examine the origins of the Russia investigation and determine if intelligence collection involving President Donald Trump's campaign was "lawful and appropriate," a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Monday.

Barr appointed John Durham, the U.S. attorney in Connecticut, to conduct the inquiry, the person said. The person could not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Durham's appointment comes about a month after Barr told members of Congress he believed "spying did occur" on the Trump campaign in 2016. He later said he didn't mean anything pejorative and was gathering a team to look into the origins of the special counsel's investigation.

Barr provided no details about what "spying" may have taken place but appeared to be alluding to a surveillance warrant the FBI obtained on a former Trump associate, Carter Page, and the FBI's use of an informant while the bureau was investigating former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos.

Trump and his supporters have seized on both to accuse the Justice Department and the FBI of unlawfully spying on his campaign.

The inquiry, which will focus on whether the government's methods to collect intelligence relating to the Trump campaign were lawful and appropriate, is

separate from an investigation by the Justice Department's inspector general. The agency's watchdog is also examining the Russia probe's origins, and Barr has said he expects the watchdog report to be done in May or June.

Congressional Republicans have also indicated they intend to examine how the investigation that shadowed Trump's presi-



Barr

dency for nearly two years began and whether there are any legal concerns. The recently concluded investigation from a special counsel

Robert Mueller did not find a criminal conspiracy between the campaign and the Kremlin to tip the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

Durham is a career prosecutor who was nominated for his post as U.S. attorney in Connecticut by Trump. He has previously investigated law enforcement corruption, the destruction of CIA videotapes and the Boston FBI office's relationship with mobsters.

In nominating him, the White House said Durham and other nominees for U.S. attorney jobs share Trump's vision for "making America safe again."

Durham was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 2018. At the time, Connecticut's two Democratic senators, Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, called Durham a "fierce, fair prosecutor" who knows how to try tough cases.

help its flow mimic its original one.

Last year, Congress appropriated close to \$139 million for the project.

In March, Trump's 2020 budget proposal slashed spending by the Army Corps of Engineers by 31 percent and failed to include money for an Everglades reservoir to reduce polluted water from being flushed from Lake Okechobee to coastal estuaries.

The proposal earmarked just \$63 million to help restore Florida's wetlands, and included projects not part of Everglades restoration — completing two small reservoirs east and west of Lake Okechobee and restoring bends in the Kissimmee River.

It was far short of the \$200 million requested by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida lawmakers for Everglades work and didn't include a 17,000-acre reservoir on sugar



Cliff Owen/AP

People wait in line to attend The Road to the Green New Deal Tour final event at Howard University in Washington on Monday.

Ocasio-Cortez, Sanders rally support for Green New Deal

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders rallied support for the Green New Deal on Monday night, with the New York congresswoman saying there should be "no middle ground" when it comes to climate change and the Vermont senator calling for a political revolution.

Sanders, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for president, called for an end to all tax breaks and subsidies for the oil and gas industry as the first step of the Green New Deal, which seeks to shift the U.S. away from fossil fuels such as oil and coal and replace them with renewable energy sources.

"How do we take on an industry with unlimited power, money and resources? We need a political revolution," Sanders said at the Road to the Green New Deal Tour rally at Howard University.

The Green New Deal, introduced by Ocasio-Cortez and Sen.

Ed Markey, of Massachusetts, has been blocked in the Senate, and Democratic House leaders refuse to take it up. Activists and politicians who back the plan are pushing to make it a top issue in the 2020 campaign.

The rally comes as Sanders and others seeking the Democratic presidential nomination criticize another 2020 rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, over his yet-to-be-released climate plan. Published reports suggest Biden is seeking "middle ground" on climate, a phrase that drew loud boos from the mostly young crowd at Monday night's rally, along with the mention of Biden's name.

Ocasio-Cortez, the chief House author of the Green New Deal, drew applause when she criticized "conservatives from both sides of the aisle" who have cautioned her to go slow or who have urged more fracking for oil and natural gas.

"We cannot accept anything less than a path to save ourselves,

which this is," she said.

Biden has chafed at reports that he's considering a less-ambitious approach to climate change than many of his rivals have endorsed, but he's also expressed skepticism at the Green New Deal.

"We do need to finish this green revolution in a way that is rational, that we can do it, afford it and get it done now," he said Monday in Hampton, N.H. "There's so much we can do."

Biden said he would be making a "major speech" to detail his environmental policy by the end of the month.

The Green New Deal calls for virtual elimination by 2030 of greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming and meeting 100 percent of U.S. power demand through renewable and zero-emission energy sources, including nuclear power. The proposal has broad support among Democratic activists and 2020 presidential contenders, putting it at the forefront of the party's presidential primary.

White House changes course, backs push for \$200M in Everglades funding

By SAMANTHA J. GROSS
Miami Herald

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — After receiving letters and prodding by Florida's state and federal lawmakers, President Donald Trump changed course Monday, announcing via Twitter his support of a \$200 million push to fund projects aimed at restoring Florida's Everglades.

"Congress needs to help us complete the world's largest intergovernmental watershed restoration project ASAP! A good for Florida and good for the environment," he tweeted.

The cost-share project was originally signed by former President Bill Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. It was expected to take 20 years and cost \$8.7 billion. It was supposed to map out a way to replumb the Everglades with a system of pumps, levees, canals and wells that would

fields south of the lake to help reduce the polluted runoff that contributed to last summer's algae blooms and red tide that choked Florida's coasts and waterways.

DeSantis made Everglades restoration a campaign promise and said the environment was his No. 1 priority. The efforts showed in the state budget, which included about \$682 million for environmental needs.

The Everglades project is also a priority of DeSantis' newly appointed South Florida Water Management District governing board, which sent a letter to the entire Florida congressional delegation encouraging members to push for \$200 million in Everglades restoration funding.

Trump's tweet came hours after U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., had tweeted the letter and also followed a letter sent by Rubio, DeSantis and Sen. Rick Scott,

R-Fla., in February urging Trump to include the funding in his budget request to Congress.

"I've consistently fought for the federal government to match the state's investment," Scott said in a statement Monday. "I applaud President Trump for working with the Florida delegation to commit to fight for \$200 million in federal funding for Everglades restoration projects this year."

Sean Cooley, a spokesman for the South Florida Water Management District, said the board is "elated" by the president's apparent commitment.

"We are working hard to accelerate projects as we can but, of course, that depends on federal and on state funding," he said.

"The state has been a generous provider, but the federal government needs to step it up. This is an enlightening and wonderful move."

NATION

2020 Democrats face economic challenge in Wis.

By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

NEW BERLIN, Wis. — Business was good at the merchandise table as Republicans meeting at a suburban Milwaukee bowling alley picked out their Trump 2020 “Keep America Great” hats, now available in pink, blue and camouflage in addition to the trademark red. Bruce Kudick, a proud Donald Trump supporter with a little extra money in his pocket these days, bought two.

The 60-year-old said he hoped to retire and move to Florida in 2014 after he sold the bar and bowling alley he owned. But health insurance got too expensive and his insurer pulled out of the individual market “because of Obamacare,” so Kudick got a job with a Wisconsin blood center setting up blood drives.

He just got a \$3.75-per-hour raise — an example, he said, of how the economy is booming with a businessman in the White House.

“You can’t tell me if you walked up to anybody and asked, ‘Is your life better than it was a year ago other than ‘yes,’” Kudick said.

The economy already is at the

center of the 2020 fight for president, particularly in Midwestern states that supported Trump in 2016 and that Democrats are determined to recapture next year. The Democrats’ challenge may be especially difficult in Wisconsin, a toss-up state that has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Trump boasted of the job numbers during a rally in Green Bay last month, also noting the U.S. economy’s better-than-expected 3.2% growth in the first quarter. Nationally, unemployment is at 3.6% — a 50-year low. Wisconsin’s is 2.9%.

The Democratic group Priorities USA launched ads ahead of Trump’s visit — part of a \$100 million early investment planned for Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida and Michigan. The group noted Wisconsin’s average annual wage was more than \$4,000 below the national average.

How people feel is the key question. In AP VoteCast, a national survey of voters in last year’s midterm election, 68% of Wisconsin voters rated the economy as good or excellent and about as many said their family was holding steady financially.

Rita Lock, 54, a Democrat from



SARA BURNETT/AP

Waukesha County GOP volunteers Wendy Radant, left, and Valerie Houk, right, sell Trump merchandise during a party gathering May 3 in New Berlin, Wis. Democrats trying to recapture Midwestern states will face their biggest challenge in Wisconsin.

Milwaukee, said she’s dissatisfied and was happy to see former Vice President Joe Biden get into the 2020 presidential race. She believes that former President Barack Obama, who took office during the Great Recession, deserves credit for the turnaround and that too many people still are struggling.

“People have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Everything will be better when a person can just work one job,” said Lock, who runs an organization that advocates for criminal justice reform.

The state’s economy is driven largely by manufacturing, health care and agriculture, with Wisconsin — known as “America’s

Dairyland” — the country’s largest cheese producer.

Democratic Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes said Trump’s trade policies have contributed to falling milk prices. Mexico, Canada, Europe and China imposed retaliatory tariffs on American dairy products after Trump placed tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum.

“Donald Trump has been a disaster — for our state, for our country, for our dairy farmers,” Barnes said at a Democratic gathering before Trump’s Green Bay event.

Barnes and Gov. Tony Evers defeated Republican Gov. Scott Walker last fall in a victory that energized Wisconsin Democrats.

Barnes said he hopes their campaign can serve as a lesson for Democrats in 2020 to be bold.

Charles Franklin, director of the Marquette Law School Poll, said the state’s party balance has moved from 3 to 5 percent-age points pro-Democratic a few years ago to a dead-even split.

He noted Trump’s favorability rating here has been in the low-to-mid-40s since he became president — which is higher than before the 2016 election.

Franklin also said the economy is “absolutely” a plus for an incumbent who has the numbers Trump is seeing in Gross Domestic Product, earnings and unemployment.

Democrats: Trump, GOP twisting Tlaib’s remarks

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats from Congress to the 2020 presidential campaign trail on Monday demanded that Republicans apologize to Rep. Rashida Tlaib for mischaracterizing her remarks about the Holocaust in the latest uproar over Muslim House members and their remarks about Israel.

The Michigan Democrat told a Yahoo News podcast over the weekend that she gets “a calming feeling” when she thinks of “the tragedy of the Holocaust,” the suffering of her Palestinian ancestors and the new state of Israel. The remark instantly ignited an online fight, with Republicans incorrectly describing Tlaib’s words as reflecting her feelings about the genocide itself that cost millions of lives, including those of 6 million Jews.

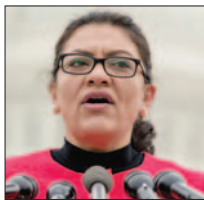
The blowback against the GOP came from the top of Democratic ranks.

“Republicans’ desperate attempts to smear #RepRashida & misrepresent her comments

are outrageous,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tweeted. “President @realDonaldTrump & House GOP should apologize to Rep. Tlaib & the American people for their gross misrepresentations.”

The issue had its roots in Tlaib’s remarks on the Yahoo News podcast “Skullduggery,” in which she was asked about her backing of a one-state solution to the conflict over Israel. She replied by noting the U.S. recently commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day.

“There’s a kind of a calming feeling, I always tell folks, when I think of the Holocaust and the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the fact that it was my ancestors — Palestinians — who lost their land, and some lost their lives, their livelihood, their human dignity, their existence, in many ways, that had been wiped out,” Tlaib, one of the first Muslims to serve in Congress, said during the podcast dated Friday. “I mean, just all of it was in the name of trying to create a safe haven for Jews, post the Holocaust, post the tragedy and horrific persecution of Jews across



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Democrats on Monday defended Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., saying President Donald Trump and his allies mischaracterized her remarks about the Holocaust.

the world at that time.”

She continued: “I love the fact that it was my ancestors that provided that, right, in many ways. But they did it in a way that took their human dignity away, right? And it was forced on them.”

“And so, when I think about one-state, I think about the fact that, why couldn’t we do it in a better way?”

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland said, “If you read Rep. Tlaib’s comments, it is clear that President Trump and Congressional Republicans are taking them out of context.”

NYC mayor to decide this week on 2020 run

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio staged a chaotic news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower on Monday in which he touted a city anti-pollution law, was heckled by President Donald Trump’s supporters and said he will announce this week whether he’s running for president.

Speaking at a podium steps from the spot where Trump announced his own run in 2015, the Democrat said he had come to warn the president that Trump Organization buildings could face a combined \$2.1 million in annual fines by 2030 if they don’t comply with a new law requiring skyscraper owners to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

“President Trump, you’re on notice. Your polluting buildings are part of the problem,” he said.

De Blasio’s speech was all-but drowned out by a throng of Trump supporters who demonstrated behind him on the building’s escalators, booing, whistling, chanting and holding up signs with mes-

sages including, “Failed mayor” and “Worst mayor ever.”

Under a deal Trump struck with the city decades ago, the skyscraper’s lobby is considered a public space for much of each day.

Responding to a reporter’s question, De Blasio — still straining to be heard — said he was discussing a possible presidential run with his family. “We will make a final decision this week,” he said.

De Blasio has openly discussed his desire to run for several months and has made exploratory trips to several early primary states.

De Blasio said he initially intended to hold Monday’s news conference outside Trump Tower but moved it indoors because of the weather.



de Blasio

NATION

Judge blocks release of Coast Guard lieutenant

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. — A federal judge in Maryland on Monday blocked the release of a Coast Guard lieutenant accused of stockpiling combat gear and compiling a hit list of prominent Democrats and TV journalists.

U.S. District Judge George Hazel agreed to revoke a magistrate's order to free Christopher Hasson, 50, from custody while he awaits trial on firearms and drug charges. Prosecutors had appealed and asked Hazel to review the magistrate's order.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Day decided on May 7 that Has-

son could be released from custody and supervised by relatives in Virginia. But Day didn't order Hasson's immediate release. Instead, he gave prosecutors time to appeal.

Hazel said "reasonable judges can disagree" in a case like this. And in this instance, Hazel said he can't leave it to Hasson's relatives to serve as his custodians and ensure the public's safety.

"So I will put that job in the hands of the U.S. Marshals (Service)," the judge said.

Prosecutors have called Hasson a domestic terrorist intent on carrying out a killing spree, but they haven't filed any terrorism-related charges against him since

his Feb. 15 arrest.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Windom said the government has no doubt that Hasson's arrest prevented bloodshed.

"Nothing is more serious than murder. And, plain and simple, that's what the defendant was going to do," Windom told Hazel.

Hasson can appeal Hazel's decision. His attorney, assistant public defender Liz Oyer, declined to comment after the hearing.

Day's order called for releasing Hasson to the custody of in-laws at a home in Virginia, with 24-hour monitoring by global positioning system equipment. His wife moved out of their Silver Spring, Md., apartment after his



MARYLAND U.S. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/AP

Firearms and ammunition confiscated from Coast Guard officer Christopher Paul Hasson are displayed. A judge has overturned a magistrate's ruling that Hasson could be released from custody.

arrest and has been staying with her mother in Virginia.

Hasson has pleaded not guilty to charges of unlawful possession of firearm silencers, possession of firearm by unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of tramadol, an opioid painkiller.

Oyer has said prosecutors

haven't filed terrorism-related charges against Hasson because they haven't found any evidence to back up those allegations. She accused prosecutors of seeking to punish Hasson for "private thoughts" that he never shared.

"They're asking the court to go with a gut feeling," she told Hazel.

Carter has surgery for broken hip

By SUDDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Former President Jimmy Carter broke his hip Monday at his south Georgia home when he fell while leaving to go turkey hunting, a spokeswoman for the Carter Center said.

The 94-year-old former president was treated in Americus, Ga., near his home in Plains, and was recovering comfortably after successful surgery, spokeswoman, Deanna Congilio, said in a statement.

His wife of 73 years, Rosalynn, was with him, Congilio said.

In an indication Carter was in good spirits, Congilio said Carter's main concern was that he had not reached his limit on turkeys with the shooting season ending this week.

"He hopes the State of Georgia will allow him to roll over the unused limit to next year," the statement said.

In a Tweet, President Donald Trump wished Carter a speedy recovery, saying the former president was in great spirits when they spoke recently.

"He will be fine," Trump said.

In March, Carter became the longest-living chief executive in U.S. history, exceeding the lifespan of former President George H.W. Bush, who died Nov. 30 at the age of 94 years, 171 days.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Former President Jimmy Carter is recovering after surgery for a broken hip suffered in a fall Monday.

The milestone came despite a cancer diagnosis more than three years earlier. Carter disclosed in 2015 that he had melanoma that had spread to his liver and brain. He received treatment for seven months until scans showed no sign of the disease.

"I've had a wonderful life," he said at the time he revealed the cancer. "I've had thousands of friends; I've had an exciting, adventurous and gratifying existence."

Carter's legacy since leaving office has long overshadowed his rocky White House tenure, where he lost after one term amid a U.S. hostage crisis with Iran. He and Rosalynn founded the Carter Center in Atlanta in 1982 to focus on global human rights issues.

The center has monitored elections around the world and worked to resolve conflicts and eradicate disease, including guinea worm.

The former president and first lady still live in Plains, a town of about 750 where they were born, raised and married.

Administration eyes Pell Grant money to boost NASA's budget

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration wants to shift money for Pell Grants for college education to fund new spending, including a \$1.6 billion bump for NASA to return American astronauts to the moon by 2024.

Under a budget amendment sent to Congress Monday evening, the administration would use an additional \$1.9 billion in surplus Pell Grant money to fund other budget priorities, including an infusion of new cash for NASA "so that we can return to Space in a BIG WAY!" President Donald Trump tweeted.

A series of proposed changes reverses some of the most controversial cuts Trump's administration had proposed, including slashing funding for the Special Olympics. The White House can send such requests, called "rescissions," to Congress to claw back unspent money the administration views as wasteful or unnecessary. Congress must approve.

Officials insisted the reallocation of the Pell Grant money would have no impact on those currently receiving grants, which help low income students pay for college.

"This does not cut any spending for Pell Grant programs as the budget continues to ensure all students will get their full Pell Grant and keeps the program on sound fiscal footing," Office of Management and Budget spokesman Wesley Denton said in a statement.

Enrollment in the program has declined since 2011, leading to a surplus of nearly \$9 billion, according to the budget office. The administration had originally proposed using \$2 billion of that surplus to fund other spending.

The new request brings that total to \$3.9 billion, which OMB described as similar to its request in the 2018 budget. The administration proposed a similar cancellation of unobligated Pell grant money for 2019 but later backed off the idea.

The decision to bolster NASA's budget had been announced earlier Monday in a series of tweets in which Trump promised a new era of space exploration.

Vice President Mike Pence has called for landing astronauts on the moon within five years and has said NASA needs to achieve that goal "by any means necessary." This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing.

The request for the NASA funding comes as the White House has been signaling its reluctance to endorse a deal to increase spending "caps" for domestic programs backed by both parties on Capitol Hill. Negotiations on a long-sought hurricane and flood disaster aid bill have gone frustratingly slow, in large part because Trump has been opposed to giving Puerto Rico more rebuilding funds to help the island recover from back-to-back 2017 hurricanes.

Trump had previously announced plans included in Monday's request to reverse several of his administration's own proposed budget cuts, including efforts to gut federal funding for a wide-ranging Great Lakes cleanup program. Trump told a rally crowd in Grand Rapids, Mich., in March that he was reversing course on the proposed cuts and would support allocating \$300 million this year for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



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NATION

Huffman pleads guilty in admissions scheme

BY ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

BOSTON — “Desperate Housewives” star Felicity Huffman pleaded guilty Monday in the college admissions bribery scheme, the biggest name to do so in a scandal that has underscored the lengths to which some wealthy parents will go to get their children into top universities.

The Emmy-winning actress, 56, could face prison time after she admitted to participating in the nationwide scam, in which authorities say parents bribed coaches, rigged entrance exams or both to game the admissions system.

Huffman pleaded guilty in federal court to paying an admissions consultant \$15,000 to have a proctor correct her older daughter’s answers on the SAT. She also considered going through with the plan for her younger daughter before ultimately deciding not to, authorities say.

The consultant, Rick Singer, arranged for the cheating by having students obtain permission for extra time on the exams through diagnoses for things like learning disabilities, and then taking the exams at his testing center, prosecutors say.

In court, Huffman explained her daughter had been seeing a neuropsychologist for years and been getting extra time on tests since she was 11 — an apparent attempt to explain that her daughter’s doctor had no part in the scheme.

“I just didn’t want to create the impression that neuropsychologists have any part

in this,” a tearful Huffman said before stopping to collect herself.

Sentencing was set for Sept. 13. Because she agreed to plead guilty, prosecutors said they would recommend four months in prison, but the judge could choose not to put her behind bars at all.

She arrived at court holding the hand of her brother Moore Huffman Jr. and did not say anything to journalists. In court, she wore a gray dress and a sweater and sat flanked by her attorneys while her brother watched from the front row. Her husband, actor William H. Macy, didn’t attend.

Huffman had apologized in a statement last month and said she will accept the consequences. She said she “betrayed” her 18-year-old daughter, who was not aware of her plan.

“This transgression toward her and the public I will carry for the rest of my life. My desire to help my daughter is no excuse to break the law or engage in dishonesty,” Huffman said.

Investigators have said Macy, 69, was with her when Singer explained how he could arrange for the cheating because he “controlled” a test center. Both Huffman and Macy agreed to the plan, authorities say, but Macy has not been charged. Prosecutors have not explained why.

California businessman Devin Sloane also pleaded guilty Monday to paying \$250,000 in bribes to get his son into the University of Southern California as a fake water polo recruit. Officials say he bought athletic gear and worked with a designer to



STEVEN SORRE/AP

Actress Felicity Huffman arrives with her brother Moore Huffman Jr. at federal court Monday in Boston, where she pleaded guilty to charges in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal.

create a bogus photo of his son playing the sport for the application.

Huffman and Sloane are among 14 parents who agreed to plead guilty in the biggest admissions scandal ever prosecuted in the U.S., known as “Operation Varsity Blues.” The scandal involves prestigious schools across the country and has also

embroiled prominent college coaches.

The parents are accused of paying Singer to bribe coaches in exchange for helping their children get into schools as fake athletic recruits. Singer also paid off entrance exam administrators to allow someone else to take tests for students or fix their answers, authorities say.

Some parents and coaches who have agreed to plead guilty are cooperating with prosecutors against current or future co-defendants, but Huffman is not known to be among them.

Singer has pleaded guilty to charges including racketeering conspiracy. He began working with authorities last year and secretly recorded his conversations with actress Lori Loughlin, Huffman and other parents in the hopes of getting a lenient sentence.

Some parents have decided to fight the charges, including “Full House” star Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, who have pleaded not guilty to paying \$500,000 in bribes to get their daughters into the University of Southern California as crew recruits, even though neither is a rower.

Loughlin and Giannulli, who are also charged with money laundering conspiracy, have not publicly commented.

Huffman was a star of ABC’s “Desperate Housewives,” which won her an Emmy Award in 2005. She was nominated for an Oscar for playing a transgender woman in the movie “Transamerica.”

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NATION

4 die in crash of sightseeing planes

By RACHEL D'ORO
AND MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A team of federal accident investigators is expected to arrive in Alaska on Tuesday to try to piece together what caused a deadly midair collision between two sightseeing planes.

Four people were killed when the floatplanes carrying cruise ship tourists collided Monday near the southeast Alaska town of Ketchikan, the Coast Guard said. Two others were missing, said Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios, a Coast Guard spokesman.

The Washington, D.C.-based investigative team from the National Transportation Safety Board is expected to arrive in Ketchikan on Tuesday afternoon, agency spokesman Peter Knudson said. He said board member Jennifer Homendy also is traveling with the so-called "Go Team," which investigates major accidents.

The floatplanes collided under unknown circumstances, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said in an email to The Associated Press. Floatplanes have pontoons mounted under the fuselage so they can land on water.

The passengers were from the cruise ship Royal Princess and were on sightseeing flights, one of which was operated by flightseeing company Taquan Air.

Eleven people were inside Taquan's single-engine de Havilland DHC-3 Otter when it went down as it returned from Misty Fjords National Monument, which is part of the Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest. Ten people were taken to a Ketchikan hospital.

All patients were in fair or good condition, according to Marty West, a spokeswoman for PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center.

Three people who died were among five people aboard the



DUSTIN SAFRANEK, KETCHIKAN (ALASKA) DAILY NEWS/AP

Emergency response crews transport an injured passenger to an ambulance at the George Inlet Lodge docks Monday in Ketchikan, Alaska. The passenger was from one of two sightseeing planes reported down in the inlet early Monday afternoon following a collision that left four people dead.

second plane, a single-engine de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, according to Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens. It's unclear which plane carried the fourth victim, whose body was recovered during a Monday night search, Rios said.

Local emergency responders worked with state and federal agencies and good Samaritan vessels to help rescue and recover victims.

"It's been a long day and the crews have been working really hard to rescue people and recover the deceased," Deanna Thomas, a spokeswoman for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the local government, said Monday evening.

A spokeswoman for Taquan Air, operator of the Otter, said the company had suspended operations while federal authorities in-

vestigate the deadly crash.

"We are devastated by today's incident and our hearts go out to our passengers and their families," Taquan said in a statement.

Cindy Cicchetti, a passenger on the Royal Princess, told the AP that the ship captain announced that two planes were in an accident Monday. She said the ship is not leaving as scheduled and there weren't any details as to how the accident will affect the rest of the trip.

The ship left Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 11 and is scheduled to arrive in Anchorage on Saturday.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their lives and the families of those impacted by today's accident. Princess Cruises is extending its full support

to traveling companions of the guests involved," Princess Cruises said in a statement.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Weather conditions in the area on Monday included high overcast skies with 9 mph southeast winds.

It's not the first time a major plane crash has occurred near Ketchikan, a popular tourist destination.

In June 2015, a pilot and eight passengers died when a de Havilland DHC-3 Otter operated by Premech Air Inc. crashed into mountainous terrain about 24 miles from Ketchikan. The NTSB later determined that pilot error and lack of a formal safety program contributed to the crash.

Ala. Senate to vote on near-total abortion ban

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama lawmakers are expected to vote Tuesday evening on a proposal to outlaw almost all abortions in the state, a headline measure that has splintered Republicans over its lack of an exception for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

The bill before the GOP-dominated Alabama Senate would make performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony. The only exception would be for when the woman's health is at serious risk.

"Our bill says that baby in the womb is a person," said Republican Rep. Terri Collins, the bill's sponsor.

Supporters said the bill is intentionally designed to conflict with the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationally because they hope to spark court cases that might prompt the justices to revisit abortion rights.

Emboldened by conservative justices who have joined the Supreme Court, abortion opponents in several states are seeking to challenge abortion access. Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can occur in about the sixth week of pregnancy. The Alabama bill goes farther

by seeking to outlaw abortion outright.

Although the bill passed the House of Representatives 74-3, some GOP state senators have expressed

discomfort that the bill doesn't include an exception for rape.

"Overwhelmingly, the people out on the street I'm talking to, they are hesitant to put into law no exceptions," Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh said, recounting conversations with constituents.

The Senate fell into chaos last week after a hasty voice vote — pushed through in a less than five seconds — stripped a committee-added amendment to exempt rape and incest cases. Lawmakers adjourned for the day soon after.

An attempt to add the rape exception is expected when the bill returns to the Senate floor Tuesday, Marsh said. He is unsure how those votes would fall.

Republican Sen. Cam Ward said he also supports the exception for rape. Ward said he is haunted by stories of rape victims, including a woman who recounted being raped by a relative as a teen.

"I think the bill passes in the end. The close vote is on the amendment," Ward said.

Jury in Calif. orders 3rd big payout by Monsanto

By PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A jury on Monday ordered agribusiness giant Monsanto Co. to pay a combined \$2.055 billion to a couple claiming that the company's popular weed killer Roundup Ready caused their cancers.

The jury's verdict is the third such courtroom loss for Monsanto in California since August, but a San Francisco law professor said it's likely a trial judge or appellate court will significantly reduce the punitive damage award.

The state court jury in Oakland concluded that Monsanto's weed killer caused the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma Alva and Alberta Pilliod each contracted. Jurors awarded them each \$1 billion in punitive damages in addition to a

combined \$55 million in compensatory damages.

Alberta Pilliod, 76, said after the verdict that she and her husband, Alva, have each been battling cancer for the last nine years. She said they are unable to enjoy the same activities they participated in before their cancer diagnosis.

"It changed our lives forever," she said. "We couldn't do things we used to be able to do, and we really resent them for that."

One of the Pilliods' lawyers, Michael Miller, conceded that the \$2 billion punitive damage award was likely to be reduced on appeal, but said they are prepared for a long legal battle.

A federal jury in San Francisco ordered the weed killer maker in March to pay a Sonoma County man \$80 million. A San Francisco

jury last August awarded \$289 million to a former golf course greens keeper who blamed his cancer on Monsanto's Roundup Ready herbicide. A judge later reduced the award by \$200 million.

The three California trials were the first of an estimated 13,000 plaintiffs with pending lawsuits against Monsanto across the country to go to trial. St. Louis-based Monsanto is owned by the German chemical giant Bayer A.G.

Bayer said Monday that it would appeal the verdict.

"The verdict in this trial has no impact on future cases and trials, as each one has its own factual and legal circumstances," the company said.

The company noted that none of the California verdicts has been considered by an appeals court

and that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers the weed killer safe.

The EPA reaffirmed its position in April, saying that the active ingredient glyphosate found in the weed killer posed "no risks of concern" for people exposed to it by any means — on farms, in yards and along roadsides, or as residue left on food crops.

"There is zero chance it will stand," said University of California, Hastings School of Law professor David Levine. He said the ratio between the \$2 billion in punitive damages and \$55 million in compensatory damages is too high. He said judges rarely allow punitive damages to exceed four times actual damages awarded.

The punitive damages awarded Monday are 36 times the actual damages.

NATION



FLOR PAZ, EL NUEVO HERALD (DORAL, FLA.)/AP

Miami Beach police investigators gather evidence Saturday after an early morning shooting, one of three in Florida involving performers or guests at a hip-hop festival over the weekend.

Police look for connections in 3 hip-hop shootings in Florida

By TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A fatal shooting outside a crowded South Florida beachfront hotel. Another on a busy Miami Beach street. A third with no serious injuries on a major highway.

All involved hip-hop performers or guests of the Rolling Loud Festival, a three-day spectacular that concluded Sunday at the Miami Dolphins stadium. But beyond that surface connection, police agencies are comparing notes to determine whether they are tied together or unrelated acts of violence.

"It is all something we are investigating, but it is too early to tell," Miami Beach police spokesman Ernesto Rodriguez said Monday. No one has been arrested.

Rolling Loud organizers did not return calls and emails seeking comment. The festival's Twitter account posted a message Monday reading: "IF YOU DIDN'T ENJOY ROLLING LOUD DESPITE THE HICCUPS, STAY HOME NEXT YEAR ... THIS IS HIP-HOP." The account was later suspended.

In the most notable shooting tied to the festival, gunmen in a passing Cadillac Escalade opened fire on rapper NBA YoungBoy



INVISION/AP

NBA YoungBoy, shown at the Lil' WeezyAna Fest in New Orleans in August 2017, was targeted in a shooting in Miami on Sunday.

as he and his 10-member entourage exited Trump International Beach Resort Miami in Sunny Isles Beach on Sunday afternoon. Those shots wounded the rapper's girlfriend, Kaylyn Marie Long, 19, and grazed a 5-year-old bystander.

Some members of YoungBoy's party, who were legally armed, returned fire. Miami-Dade Police spokesman Alvaro Zabaleta said. One of those bullets fatally

struck a bystander, Mohamad Jradi, 43, as he sat in his van across the street. No members of YoungBoy's party will be charged as they fired in self-defense, Zabaleta said.

There did not appear to be any connection to a shooting in nearby Adventure that occurred about a half-hour earlier, Zabaleta said.

YoungBoy, whose real name is Kentrell DeSean Gauden, was on Sunday's lineup of performers.

The attack on YoungBoy occurred about 36 hours after Chicago-based rapper AAB Hellabandz, 24, was fatally shot outside the Cameo nightclub on a crowded Miami Beach street. A second person was hospitalized.

No arrests have been made, and AAB Hellabandz, whose real name was Ameer Golston, was not on the list of performers at the festival.

Rodriguez said Golston was wanted in Atlanta for attempted murder and armed robbery. He said detectives are trying to determine if there are any ties to the Atlanta case, the NBA YoungBoy shooting or an incident Friday morning involving two party buses hired by a festival performer that was fired upon. No one was seriously injured when a car passing them on Interstate 95 opened fire.

tion of her family. Police said they could not confirm whether she was pregnant and that an autopsy will determine that.

Dorris said the officer did not suffer serious injuries.

"It's a tragic event for everybody involved," he said. "Of course, our hearts go out to the family of the deceased as well as our officer."

Dorris said police were aware of the video circulating on social media and that investigators want to talk to the person who took the video because he or she was a witness to the shooting.

Victims of clergy abuse sue Vatican, demanding names

By AMY FORLITI
AND MICHAEL REZENDES
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Five men who say they were sexually abused by Roman Catholic priests when they were minors sued the Vatican on Tuesday and are demanding the names of thousands of predator priests they claim have been kept secret by the Holy See.

In a Monday news release announcing the lawsuit, Minnesota attorney Jeff Anderson said he wants to show that the Vatican tried to cover up actions by top church officials, including former St. Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop John Nienstedt. The lawsuit filed Tuesday seeks the release of 3,400 names of priests who were referred to the Vatican for "credible cases of abuse." That number was released by the Vatican in 2014.

The lawsuit comes less than a week after Pope Francis issued a groundbreaking new church law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns worldwide to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities. The law is part of a new effort to hold the Catholic hierarchy accountable.

The new law stops short of requiring the crimes to be reported to police, and abuse victims and their advocates say it's not enough since it essentially tasks discredited bishops who have mishandled abuse for decades with policing their own.

The plaintiffs in the new lawsuit include three brothers who were abused by former priest Curtis Wehmeyer as recently as 2012 in St. Paul, Minn. Wehmeyer pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct and child pornography in connection with his contact with two of the boys, who were 12 and 14.

Internal church documents show that church leaders knew Wehmeyer had engaged in sexual misconduct when they promoted him in 2009. The behavior includ-



Curtis Wehmeyer

ed at least two occasions when Wehmeyer solicited men for sex. Yet church leaders did not warn Wehmeyer's parishioners about his past, and a July 2014 church memo raised concerns that Nienstedt's "social relationship" with Wehmeyer had clouded his judgment.

Wehmeyer's arrest led prosecutors to file criminal charges against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for failing to protect children.

It also led to the resignation of Nienstedt, who came under fire for his handling of Wehmeyer's case at a time when his own sexual behavior was under scrutiny.

Nienstedt was investigated following credible allegations that he engaged in misconduct and harassment, then retaliated when his advances were rejected. Nienstedt has denied the allegations, calling them "entirely false."

His successor, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, said last December that the Vatican suspended the investigation when Nienstedt resigned in 2015. While Nienstedt remains in good standing with the Vatican, Hebda has forbidden him from exercising public ministry in his archdiocese.

Messages left with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the papal nuncio in Washington were not returned Monday.

The other plaintiffs are Manuel Vega, who says he was abused by a priest in Los Angeles, and James Keenan, who says he was abused by a priest in Minnesota.

Texas officer fatally shoots woman amid altercation captured on video

Associated Press

BAYTOWN, Texas — A Texas police officer fatally shot a woman moments after she seemed to say "I'm pregnant" in an altercation captured on video.

The shooting happened late Monday in Baytown, about 25 miles east of Houston. Baytown police Lt. Steve Dorris said the officer was patrolling an apartment complex and attempted to arrest the woman, 45, whom the officer had previously dealt with because he knew she had outstanding warrants.

Dorris said the officer, an 11-year veteran of the police department, opened fire after the woman grabbed the officer's Taser and used it against him.

In the video, the woman is heard saying, "You're actually harassing me" and "I'm actually walking to my house." The woman is on the ground and appears to reach toward the officer when she seems to be heard saying, "I'm pregnant." Moments later, he fires five shots, killing her.

The woman's name has not been released pending notifica-

US measles cases still climbing, surpass 800

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials say this year's count of measles cases has surpassed 800, a growing tally that is already the nation's highest in 25 years.

A total of 839 cases were reported as of last week. That's the most since 1994, when 963 were reported for the entire year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the latest numbers Monday.

In all, 23 states have reported

cases this year. The vast majority of illnesses have been in New York — most of them among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities.

That pattern continued last week, with most of the 75 new cases coming from New York.

Measles was once common in the U.S. but gradually became rare after vaccination campaigns that started in the 1960s.

From The Associated Press

NATION

Stiff competition

Event in Missouri regarded as the 'Olympics of taxidermy'

By ERIN HEFFERNAN

St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — It's minutes before the entry deadline at the most prestigious taxidermy competition in the United States, and animals fill a sprawling expo hall like a frozen stampede.

In one corner, a competitor fluffs a bobcat with a blow dryer and a man uses a toothbrush to smooth a buck's fur. In another, a taxidermist wearing magnifying eyeglasses rearranges individual turkey feathers with tweezers while another paints a little eye shadow above a deer's eye.

"It gives that lifelike look," he says.

This is the 2019 World Taxidermy & Fish Carving Championships, which gathered some 1,000 experts in the art of bringing the dead back to life at the Springfield Expo Center. At stake? Some of the most important honors a serious taxidermist can claim.

"This is basically the Olympics of taxidermy," said competitor Ashley Barrett, of Chambersburg, Pa., who has won two Best in the World titles, the equivalent of a taxidermy gold medal.

And the competition is stiff — in more ways than one. Cougars appear to dive off their stands. A giant tiger looks ready to pounce. Wolves fight. Turkeys strut. Wild goats race down a hill.

"I'm a little intimidated, to be honest," said first-time competitor Keith Kinzel, of Red Bud, Ill., about 30 miles southeast of St. Louis. Kinzel groomed a pouncing cougar with a dog brush and blow dryer just before rolling it into the competition hall.

He spent 113 hours on the piece, including three hours adjusting the whiskers. He took another whole night making sure the ears were at the anatomically correct 45-degree angle to the nose.

"There are so many skills you need to learn to be decent at taxidermy," said Kinzel, who runs a taxidermy business that caters to Southern Illinois hunters. "You've got to paint. You need to know the habitat. You've got to learn how to sew. You need to know anatomy, art, zoology. You need to know it all."

Splitting hairs

The structure of the competition is a bit like the Westminster dog show, except that these animals happen to be dead.

Subcategories divide some 550 entries into groups as specific as "Whitetail Deer Heads: Long/thick hair, open mouth" and "Turkeys, strutting."

There are categories for animal skulls, waterfowl and "interpretive taxidermy," featuring the more experimental work. Past winners include a dinosaur. This year there were long-extinct prehistoric birds, a jolly beaver morphing into a wood log and a cougar blending into a rock in the shape of Texas.

When the entries are all in and every hair settled in place, judges



PHOTOS BY DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/TNS

Lorraine Zimmerman takes notes as taxidermy judge Marcus Zimmerman examines a mount during the 2019 World Taxidermy & Fish Carving Championships in Springfield, Mo., last month.

get to work prodding noses and running their fingers through the fur that competitors just obsessively combed.

Wendy Christensen, one of two women tasked with judging the small mammals, stands about an inch away from a beaver with a wide-open mouth.

"Now what is your story? Why are you yelling at me?" she asks the beaver. "I like there to be a clear emotion."

Christensen worked doing taxidermy for 35 years at the Milwaukee Public Museum and has a handful of world titles herself. She began learning the craft when she was 12 through a correspondence course.

She moves on to a bobcat. "Oh, is he soft," she says, feeling the fur. She sticks her finger in the ears and gives them a tug. "Good ear connection." She looks at the legs. "Muscle is bulged out all wrong." She puts her hand under the tail and feels the cat's rear. "I know it's a little weak," she says as she feels around for the detail work. "I have to feel them up a bit."

After an initial look, Christensen pulls out a laptop and looks at reference pictures for each animal.

She dictates thoughts to a writer who fills out a detailed judging sheet with categories like "eyelid shape," "naturalness of hair patterns," "odor," "tail to body junction" and "proper location and shape of the sex organ."

Christensen looks for total anatomical accuracy, a high level of difficulty and creative flair.

The biggest point-scorers pull off the equivalent of a quadruple axel in the taxidermy world: taxidermy that requires metal work to keep the animals in gravity-defying poses. Open mouths

are another major feat, requiring taxidermists to use supplies typically used in dental offices to make molds of the animals' mouths. They then need to find the right paint to make it look like the animal might blink and walk away at any time.

The finished results aim to wow and rack up points. A raccoon appears almost electrocuted in mid-air as another raccoon bites its tail. A bear has a slight grimace as it climbs onto a prickly pear cactus. A coyote licks its lips, suspended above a partly devoured deer head with all the insides showing.

Heather Miller, who runs a taxidermy business in Halifax, Pa., attempted to get extra points with the baby skunk she brought sitting in a curled position on top of a yellow flower.

"I named him Lil' Waylon," she said. "I wanted to show difficulty by showing all the paws because those are super hard, so I thought, 'OK, I'll have him just chillin' on a flower.'"

Though she tried shampooing the fur many times, she couldn't quite eliminate the skunk smell.

"Lil' Waylon is a little stinky, so that may take some points off," she said. "But I like him anyway."

Mysterious methods

Methods of mounting a deer were like a secret recipe in the taxidermy business. But in 1983 the World Taxidermy Championships was launched by the trade publication Breakthrough, "the magazine devoted to the serious wildlife artist," and promised to share tips of the trade.

Attendees this year could go to seminars such as "Mounting a Strutting Turkey Part 1" and "3D Technology and Taxidermy."

"Custom Mammals" offered advice from Ken Walker, the subject of a documentary about his attempt to create a taxidermy Sasquatch, which premiered at the event.

Next to the competition hall, a trade show peddled everything a taxidermist could need. White animal forms that serve as a base hung on booth walls next to companies advertising tannery services and fake vegetation.

In between was the Beetle-shack, a business that uses the insects to clean and whiten bones, and Skulls Unlimited, which sells, well, skulls. Trophy haulers can help taxidermists get an animal back to the U.S. from Africa, while Payer Eyes advertises "glass eyes to die for."

But most competitors rely on more than traditional taxidermy supplies in their work. Every taxidermist is a "MacGyver," said Derek Plaisance, of Hammond, La.

Taxidermy tool boxes at the competition included butter knives, grapefruit scrapers, dog shampoos, sheen used to shine up horse coats, and bleach from beauty stores that is perfect for cleaning skulls.

"I go into Sally's (Beauty Supply) and they know me by name," said Plaisance, a tattooed man with gauge earrings who specializes in lizard taxidermy. "I'm a regular."

Taxidermists also have to get creative about where they get the animal skins. Most deer, ducks or bass are hunting and fishing trophies, but more unusual animals can be harder to come by.

Clint Rickey, a world title winner from Dodgeville, Wis., brought a bison sent to him from a meat factory by a buddy.

Alicia Goode, a taxidermist at



A taxidermy example of a tiger waits to be judged.

the Oakland Museum in California, showed up with a tiny owl she recovered after it died at an animal hospital.

"Taxidermists tend to have connections," Goode said. "Zoos, wildlife sanctuaries. Anywhere we can think of."

Going rogue

Many of the competitors are what you might imagine: men wearing Cabela's hats and camouflage shoes.

But women are squarely in the mix too, including Amber Engels, who works for Matuska Taxidermy Supply and is an instructor at the company's taxidermy college in Northwest Iowa.

She spent years employed as a florist but got into taxidermy by designing all the plants around her spouse's mounts. Soon she became an expert in the field.

"To me, it's pure art," Engels said as she prepared a bobcat mannequin for competition.

Then there's the female-dominated subgroup that's been ruffling feathers in the taxidermy world for the last decade: "rogue taxidermy," traditional taxidermy's rebellious cousin.

The movement is dominated by millennial women who are more likely to live in LA or Brooklyn than rural Iowa. Though some of their work is hyper-realistic, most comes with an edge. They might make a hot pink baby chick with two heads, a hair clip using a startling skull, a small alligator made into a clock, or a taxidermy chimera (an animal with a lion's head, a goat's body and a serpent's tail).

One member of the movement, Divya Anantharaman, of Brooklyn, carried a black vintage armadillo purse to match her dress and entered a restored Victorian automaton of a realistic turquoise bird in the competition. When you turn a key, the little bird opens its beak and sings, jerking its head inside a delicate golden cage.

"I think it should stand out," Anantharaman said.

The big winners of the competition took home a few thousand dollars each, but most competitors said the glory is the title brings in the small, often misunderstood, world of taxidermy is the real prize.

"It might take me 30 years," said Jeremy Judkins, of Salt Lake City, who tried to top his elk from the last competition by placing the year's elk killed on its antler.

"Be a one day I'll win that world title."

BUSINESS/WEATHER



ALAN DIAZ/AP

Walmart has upped the stakes in the retail delivery war with Amazon with plans to roll out next-day shipping.

Walmart rolling out free next-day shipping

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Walmart is rolling out free next-day delivery on its most popular items, increasing the stakes in the retail shipping wars.

The nation's largest retailer said Tuesday it's been building a network of more efficient e-commerce distribution centers to make that happen. The next-day service will cover 220,000 popular items from diapers and non-perishable food items to toys and electronics.

Next-day delivery, which will require a minimum order of \$35, was to be available in Phoenix and Las Vegas on Tuesday. In coming days, it will expand to southern California.

The discounter plans to roll out the service to 75% of the U.S. population by year-end. It will add hundreds of thousands more products as the program expands.

The announcement comes just two weeks after Amazon said it's upgrading its free shipping option to Prime members who pay \$119 a year to one-day delivery from two-day delivery. Amazon has declined to say when the switch

will happen, but it already offers one-day delivery for some items in certain areas.

Walmart says the new delivery program has been in the works for a while.

"Customer expectations continue to rise," said Marc Lore, CEO of Walmart's U.S. e-commerce division. "We're trying to get ahead of that."

The move will only increase pressure on other rivals that are already investing in millions of dollars to shorten the delivery window.

Two years ago, Walmart began offering free two-day shipping on millions of items on its website for orders of at least \$35. Target also offers free two-day shipping for those who spend at least \$35 or use its RedCard loyalty card.

Lore said it will be cheaper for the company to do next-day delivery than two-day service because eligible items will come from a single fulfillment center located closest to the customer. That means orders will ship in one box, or in as few as possible, unlike two-day deliveries that come in multiple boxes from multiple locations.

WhatsApp flaw let phones be infected with spyware

BY FRANK BAJAK
AND RAPHAEL SATTNER
Associated Press

Spyware crafted by a sophisticated group of hackers-for-hire took advantage of a flaw in the popular WhatsApp communications program to remotely hijack dozens of phones, the company said late Monday.

The Financial Times identified the group as Israel's NSO Group, and WhatsApp all but confirmed the identification, describing hackers as "a private company that has been known to work with governments to deliver spyware." A spokesman for the Facebook subsidiary later said, "We're certainly not refuting any of the coverage you've seen."

The malware was able to penetrate phones through missed calls alone via the app's voice calling function, the spokesman said. An unknown number of people were infected with the malware, which the company discovered in early May, said the spokesman, who was not authorized to be quoted by name.

John Scott-Railton, a researcher with the internet watchdog Citizen Lab, called the hack "a very scary vulnerability."

"There's nothing a user could have done here, sort of not having the app," he said.

The spokesman said the flaw was discovered while "our team was putting some additional security enhancements to our voice calls" and that engineers found that people targeted for infection "might get one or two calls from

a number that is not familiar to them. In the process of calling, this code gets shipped."

WhatsApp, which has more than 1.5 billion users, immediately contacted Citizen Lab and human rights groups, quickly fixed the issue and pushed out a patch. He said WhatsApp also provided information to U.S. law enforcement officials to assist in their investigations.

"We are deeply concerned about the abuse of such capabilities," WhatsApp said in a statement.

NSO said in a statement that its technology is used by law enforcement and intelligence agencies to fight "crime and terror."

"We investigate any credible allegations of misuse and if necessary, we take action, including shutting down the system," the statement said. A spokesman for Stephen Peel, whose private equity firm Novalpin recently announced the purchase of part of NSO, did not return an email seeking comment.

The revelation adds to the ques-

tions over the reach of the Israeli company's powerful spyware, which takes advantage of digital flaws to hijack smartphones, control their cameras and effectively turn them into pocket-sized surveillance devices.

Several alleged targets of the spyware are suing NSO in an Israeli court over the hacking.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 15)	\$1.1541
Dollar buys (May 15)	€0.8665
British pound (May 15)	\$1.33
Japanese yen (May 15)	107.60
South Korean won (May 15)	1,155.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2914
Canada (Dollar)	1.3480
China (Yuan)	6.8762
Denmark (Krone)	6.8622
Egypt (Pound)	17.0699
Euro	\$1.1211/8920
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8483
Hungary (Forint)	289.39
Israel (Sheqel)	3.5799
Japan (Yen)	109.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3043
Norway (Krone)	8.7367
Philippines (Peso)	52.43
Poland (Zloty)	3.84
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3689
South Korea (Won)	1,087.35
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0083
Thailand (Baht)	31.52
Turkey (New Lira)	5.9972

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

May 13, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-617.38
	25,324.99
Nasdaq composite	-269.92
	7,647.02
Standard & Poor's 500	-69.53
	2,811.87
Russell 2000	-49.99
	1,523.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.39
3-month bill	2.85
30-year bond	2.34

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

NATION

A lunar legacy

NASA hoping that rocks collected 50 years ago aid in quest to understand the moon's formation

By SARAH KAPLAN
The Washington Post

THOUSTON
The first person to set foot on the moon had one last task before he came home.

Neil Armstrong needed to pick up rocks — as many as he could carry, as interesting as he could find. The material he collected would constitute humanity's first samples taken from another world.

With less than 10 minutes to go before the end of his moonwalk, Armstrong used tongs to pile about 20 rocks into a specialized collection box. Deciding it wasn't full enough, he scooped an additional 13 pounds of lunar soil into the container.

Today, a tablespoon of that soil sits in a sealed dish in a locked and windowless lab at Johnson Space Center in Houston. It is a prized piece of the Apollo program's greatest scientific legacy: nearly 850 pounds of moon rocks.

For 50 years, research on these rocks has transformed our understanding of the moon, revealing the circumstances of its birth and the reasons for its mottled face. Now, NASA has decided to release three new samples for analysis — samples that no scientist has touched.

The upcoming experiments, on vacuum-sealed cores and a long-frozen rock, can be performed only once — at the precise moment the samples are opened. That's why the materials have been held back since they were retrieved from the moon, said Ryan Zeigler, who curates the Apollo rocks collection. NASA was waiting for the right scientists, with the right technologies, at the right time.

With Apollo 11's 50th anniversary this year and renewed interest in the moon ahead of a proposed return mission, Zeigler said, the right time is now.

Revealing research

NASA's Lunar Sample Laboratory, a maze of gleaming metal cabinets and spotless linoleum floors, was built in the 1970s to house the rocks brought back from six moon missions.

A sophisticated HVAC system, designed to keep the air 1,000 times cleaner than in the outside world, fills the facility with a faint artificial breeze. Scientists enter only after donning special white jumpsuits, caps and booties to limit contamination.

These are some of the most valuable rocks in the solar system, Zeigler said. Just look at what they have revealed so far.

Before the Apollo 11 mission, scientists couldn't agree on where the moon came from. It's a misfit in the solar system — much larger relative to its planet than almost any other moon. Some speculated that it was once an independent object that was "captured" by Earth's gravity. Others proposed



PHOTOS BY SPIKE JOHNSON/The Washington Post

Andrea Mosie, an Apollo sample processor, handles lunar rocks inside their airtight containers at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston on March 19.



Left: The lunar rock display and test laboratory at the center is a locked, temperature-controlled storage facility. Right: A large sample of moon rock is contained in an airtight tank.



that the satellite formed in orbit alongside Earth when the planets were coalescing out of a primordial dust disc. Many grade school textbooks taught that it was, in fact, a blob of Earth that had been flung away by our planet's spin; the Pacific Ocean was thought to be a scar from this ancient loss.

All of those theories had to be discarded as soon as scientists saw the first Apollo rocks.

The moon materials were extraordinarily ancient — as old as 4.5 billion years. Although they contained many of the same chemicals as rocks from Earth, they were startlingly poor in "volatiles" — molecules like water and carbon dioxide that easily vaporize when heated. Some contained features produced only in cataclysms — showers of meteorites, blasts from volcanoes or barages of particles from the sun.

At a conference to discuss the initial findings six months after Apollo 11 returned to Earth, no one could agree on what all that evidence meant.

Then, toward the end of the conference, geologist John Wood

explained how the clues fit together. He realized that the strange white flecks in Armstrong's hastily gathered soil sample belonged to an unusual type of rock called anorthosite, which forms when the mineral feldspar crystallizes out of molten rock. At some point, Wood reasoned, the moon must have been completely covered in a magma ocean, in which anorthosite rocks floated like icebergs. The molten world would have cast an eerie, blood-red glow in Earth's night skies.

To confirm Wood's theory, scientists needed bigger and better samples. They got what they wanted in 1971, when Apollo 15 astronauts James Irwin and David Scott uncovered a half-pound chunk of anorthosite on the rim of a crater in the moon's northern hemisphere.

Cleaning the dirt off the rock's exterior, Scott realized what he was holding and started to shout. "Oh, boy! Guess what we just found!" he exclaimed, as Irwin laughed with delight.

"Guess what we just found! I think we found what we came

for. ... What a beaut," he said.

That sample came to be known as "the Genesis rock" — a nod to the role it played in helping scientists unravel the story of the moon's origins. It sits inside its own glass case, not far from the dish containing Armstrong's soil.

"These exact samples told us how the moon formed," Zeigler said.

'Cosmic schmoo'

About 4.5 billion years ago, the theory goes, a long-gone giant planet called Theia, named for the mother of the Greek moon goddess, smashed into the newly formed Earth. The impact shattered both Theia and the proto-Earth and splashed millions of tons of material into space. Some of the rock coalesced in orbit around the Earth, and our satellite was born.

The heaviest bits sank to the moon's center, while the light minerals floated to the top of the worldwide magma ocean and crystallized, forming the thin anorthosite crust. The rocks and

dust retrieved by Armstrong and Scott are relics of that long-ago tumult.

Many researchers were skeptical of this "giant impact hypothesis" when it was first proposed in the mid-1970s. Astrophysicist Alastair Cameron, one of the architects of the hypothesis, recalled a colleague dismissing one of his presentations as "cosmic schmoo." The idea seemed too arbitrary, too catastrophic, too strange.

But the evidence was strange, Cameron pointed out, and only the giant impact seemed to fit it. It was big enough to generate the global magma ocean in which the anorthosite formed. It explained why the moon's and Earth's chemical fingerprints were so similar — they formed from the same swirl of exploded rock. It accounted for the missing volatiles, which would have been blown into space when Earth and Theia collided.

The hypothesis was also supported by data from science experiments astronauts performed during their time on the lunar surface. Seismometers deployed by Armstrong's comrade, Buzz Aldrin, and his successors on later Apollo missions revealed that the moon has relatively little iron at its center. After the collision, the theory goes, heavy elements such as iron sank into Earth's core while lighter elements were blasted away into what became the moon. (Notably, Earth is the densest planet in the solar system.)

Studying material from the moon up close hasn't completely explained its history. For one, researchers can find no molecular fingerprints of Theia — the object whose collision with Earth purportedly created the moon. Nor can scientists agree on how traces of water wound up inside the samples, when the global magma ocean should have boiled it all away.

NASA hopes that the three newly available samples — which represent half of all the lunar material the space agency has in reserve — will help answer those questions.

Some researchers will look for traces of water in a rock that has been stored in a freezer for nearly 50 years. Others will seek out volatile molecules, including water, trapped inside tiny glass beads formed from lunar lava fountains that erupted billions of years ago.

Several teams will work together to examine the materials inside pristine vacuum tubes that were sealed by astronauts while they were still on the moon. The way the materials are layered may offer insight about landscapes that shape the lunar landscape in the absence of wind, weather and life. Captured gases carry clues about how the material was altered by radiation, which in turn will help scientists understand how long the rock was exposed to light before astronauts boxed it up and carried it away.

WORLD

US targets \$300B of Chinese goods for new tariff hikes

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. officials listed \$300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff increases while Beijing vowed Tuesday to “fight to the finish” in an escalating trade battle that is fueling fears about damage to global economic growth.

The U.S. Trade Representative’s Office issued its target list after Beijing announced tariff increases Monday on \$60 billion of American goods in their spiraling dispute over Chinese technology ambitions and other irritants. Chinese authorities were reacting to President Donald Trump’s surprise decision last week to impose punitive duties on \$200 billion of imports from China.

“China will fight to the finish,” said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang.

“We have the determination and capacity to safeguard our interests,” Geng said. “China’s countermeasures have shown our determination to safeguard the

multilateral trade system.”

The latest U.S. list of 3,805 product categories is a step toward carrying out Trump’s May 5 threat to extend punitive 25% duties to all Chinese imports, the USTR said. It said a June 17 hearing would be held before Washington decides how to proceed.

The list “covers essentially all products” not already affected by punitive tariffs, the USTR said.

It includes laptop computers, saw blades, turbine parts, tuna and garlic. The USTR noted it excludes pharmaceuticals and rare earths minerals used in electronics and batteries.

“The risk of further escalation is far from over,” Tim Spakman, of ING, said in a report.

Also Tuesday, China’s tightly controlled social media were filled with comments lambasting Washington following weeks of online discussion of the dispute. That suggested official censors might have blocked earlier comments but started allowing those that favor Beijing to deflect



— Nya Han Guan/AP

A shopper eyes seafood including oysters from the U.S. at a supermarket in Beijing on Tuesday as tariffs imposed by the U.S. and China threaten to increase the cost of goods in both countries.

potential criticism of President Xi Jinping’s government.

The United States is “sucking the blood of the Chinese,” said a comment left on the “Strong Country” blog of the ruling Communist Party’s newspaper, the People’s Daily. Another comment on the site said, “Why are Chinese people bullied? Because our hearts are too soft!”

Trump started raising tariffs last July over complaints China steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology

and unfairly subsidizes businesses. Beijing is trying to build into global leaders in robotics and other fields. A stumbling block has been U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties to ensure Beijing carries out its commitments.

Oddly of a settlement “remain high,” said Mark Zandi, of Moody’s Analytics, in a report.

“But suddenly a number of other scenarios seem possible, even one in which the U.S., China and the global economy suffer a

recession,” he said.

Asian stock markets fell Tuesday as the fight, with no negotiated settlement in sight, fed investor anxiety about the impact on global economic growth. China’s main market index lost 0.7%, while Tokyo’s benchmark declined 0.6%. Hong Kong, Australia and Taiwan also fell.

But shares in Europe rebounded, and the future contracts for the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 were up 0.5% and 0.6%, respectively.

Parents sue tycoon’s firm over dysentery in Moscow

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Natalya Konkova got a call from her son’s day care center at School No. 1357, asking her to pick up Yaroslav, 5, because he was running a fever and having trouble walking.

He got worse over the next 24 hours, with severe diarrhea and vomiting, before an ambulance took him to a hospital. He was eventually diagnosed with dysentery.

Yaroslav is one of 127 children aged 3 to 7 who were diagnosed with dysentery after eating food at seven state-run day care centers and kindergartens in Moscow in mid-December.

While reports of dysentery are not new in Russia, they mostly have struck provincial areas far from the capital and in much smaller outbreaks.

Even more unusual is that the catering firm blamed by opposition activists for the outbreak at six of the seven Moscow sites is owned by businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin.

Prigozhin, who has won \$2 billion in contracts for supplying food to Moscow schools since 2009, built an empire on catering and maintenance contracts for the army and has been nicknamed “Putin’s chef” for serving Kremlin functions. He also has

been reported to run a private military company known as Wagner that sends Russian contractors to Syria and other countries.

The magnate was among the Russians indicted last year by a U.S. grand jury in the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller, alleging he funded the internet trolls involved in interfering with the U.S. presidential election in 2016.

The U.S. also imposed sanctions on Prigozhin and two of his companies, Concord Catering and Concord Management and Consulting. Prigozhin has denied any involvement, and Putin said last year that while he knew the businessman, he “doesn’t count him” among his friends.

Prigozhin’s company has denied it is to blame for the dysentery outbreak. The cases have caused an outcry, thanks to a lawyer who has turned a spotlight on the caterers and has mounted a campaign to help the parents whose children fell ill.

Lyubov Sobol, who works for the investigative team of anti-corruption campaigner and opposition leader Alexei Navalny, documented Prigozhin’s rise from ex-convict in St. Petersburg to Putin’s Kremlin circle. She has taken up the case on behalf of the parents of the stricken children. Even though 11 children at day care at School No. 1357 had symp-



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANKIN/AP

Natalya Konkova holds her son, Yaroslav, in March in Moscow. Yaroslav was diagnosed with dysentery after eating food at a state-run day care center.

toms consistent with dysentery, the day care center wasn’t shut down for a quarantine for nearly three days.

A month after Sobol began a campaign on the outbreak, Russia’s chief investigative body launched a criminal inquiry into conditions at the day care centers.

Separately, parents of 27 children filed a lawsuit against Moscow authorities and Concord Ready-Meals Factory. The trial was supposed to start in April but the court has suspended hearings for at least two months pending the official probe.

Another group of parents filed a similar lawsuit last month.

Sri Lanka says at least 1 Muslim killed in rioting

By KRISHAN FRANCIS
Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Mob attacks on Muslim communities in Sri Lanka’s northwest have left one person dead and dozens of shops and mosques destroyed, a government minister said Tuesday, as communal violence worsened in the wake of Easter bombings that killed more than 250 people.

A Muslim man was hacked to death in Monday’s violence, in which members of the country’s largely Buddhist majority ethnic Sinhalese attacked Muslim-owned shops and homes in several towns, said Rauff Hakeem, a Cabinet minister and leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress.

With communal violence also reported in Sri Lanka’s west, the government imposed a nationwide curfew Monday and temporarily blocked social media and messaging apps.

Tensions have been running high in the Buddhist-majority Indian Ocean island nation since the April 21 attacks by seven suicide bombers who struck two Catholic churches and one Protestant church and three luxury hotels. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, which were carried out by a local radicalized Muslim group.

Sri Lanka has a dark history

of communal tensions. For more than a quarter-century, it was embroiled in civil war as Tamil Tiger rebels fought to create an independent state for ethnic minority Tamils. When the conflict ended 10 years ago, the U.N.’s conservative estimates said about 100,000 people had been killed.

Two U.N. advisers warned that the latest attacks against Muslims could escalate further if not stopped immediately.

“The country is trying to move forward from a traumatic period of inter-ethnic armed conflict, but these attacks are pushing Sri Lanka backwards. If not adequately dealt with, the recent violence has the potential to escalate even further,” the advisers said in a statement.

The joint statement was released by Adama Dieng, the U.N. special adviser on the prevention of genocide, and Karen Smith, the U.N. special adviser on the responsibility to protect.

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, appealed to the public to maintain the peace and patience they showed in the first days after the attacks.

“I ask the political leaders to keep their followers under control. It is no heroism in attacking Muslims and damaging their properties. True heroism is to control and overcome oneself,” Ranjith said.

WORLD

Duterte's allies appear to have big leads in vote

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte's allies appeared to have overwhelming leads in elections for the Philippine Senate, one of the opposition's last bulwarks against a brash populist leader accused of massive human rights violations.

Preliminary results comprising 94 percent of returns from Monday's midterm elections showed at least eight candidates endorsed by Duterte were leading the races for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate. Official Commission on Election results are expected to be declared in about a week.

Those leading include Duterte's former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the president's crackdown on illegal drugs, a campaign that's left thousands of suspects dead and has drawn international condemnation.

Monday's vote is seen as a gauge of public support for Duterte, who is midway through the single six-

year term Philippine presidents are allowed under the constitution. His deadly anti-drug crackdown, unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist jocular outbursts and contentious embrace of China have been the hallmarks of his presidency. Duterte's three children were also expected to win the races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat representing their southern home region of Davao city.

The 74-year-old maverick leader first carved a reputation as an extra tough mayor, who hunted drug addicts and criminals on a Harley Davidson motorcycle and carried the nickname, Duterte Harry, after the gunslinging Clint Eastwood film character.

Analyst Richard Heydarian, said many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders from long-established political clans. Such a mindset has helped the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos make a political comeback, the latest through the senatorial bid of one of his daughters.



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Manila City public workers remove campaign posters of incumbent mayor and former President Joseph "E" Estrada a day after the country's midterm elections Tuesday in Manila, Philippines. Estrada lost his bid for a third term.

ters, Imee Marcos, who was endorsed by Duterte and whose vote tally in the unofficial results indicated a victory.

Duterte, who has shown little tolerance for critics — especially those who question his anti-drug campaign — aimed for stronger leverage in the traditionally more independent Senate to bolster his legislative agenda.

That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability below the current 15 and revising the country's 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some

critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

Last year, opposition senators moved to block proposed bills they feared would undermine civil liberties.

Voters in Monday's elections made their choices for 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,500 city and town councilors in 81 provinces. The elections were relatively untroubled, despite pockets of violence in southern Mindanao region, which is under martial law as government forces hunt down Islamic State-linked militants and communist insurgents.

Danish candidate places election ad on adult site

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — While most of the candidates for Denmark's general election are making good use of the internet, posting their promises on websites and social media, one has gone a step farther.

Joachim B. Olsen, an Olympic shot put silver medalist who has been a member of the Folketing for the center-right Liberal Alliance since 2011, placed an ad bearing the party logo and encouraging people to vote for him on one of the world's top adult websites, Pornhub.

On his official Facebook profile, Olsen confirmed that he was responsible for the ad, writing, "Yes, it's me on Pornhub."

The June 5 elections are being held on schedule at the end of the parliament's four-year term.

Google opens center to improve data privacy

LONDON — Google opened a privacy-focused engineering center in Munich on Tuesday, its latest move to beef up its data protection credentials as tech companies face growing scrutiny of the data collection practices.

CEO Sundar Pichai said the Silicon Valley tech giant is expanding its operations in the southern German city, including doubling the number of data privacy engineers there to more than 200 by the end of 2019.

The new Google Safety Engineering Center will make Munich a global hub for the company's "cross-product privacy engineering efforts," Pichai said in a blog post.

Staff will work with Google privacy specialists in other cities to build products for use around the world, Pichai said, adding that Munich engineers built the Google Account control panel as well as privacy and security features for the Chrome browser.

Aussie leaders agree gays don't go to hell

CANBERRA, Australia — The leaders of both of Australia's major political parties agreed on Tuesday that gays don't go to hell because of their sexual orientation, as Christian beliefs rose to extraordinary prominence in the final days of an election campaign.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison opposed gay marriage while opposition leader Bill Shorten argued for marriage equality ahead of a national vote in 2017 that led to Australia legally recognizing same-sex unions.

Morrison, a Pentecostal Christian, accused Shorten, a Catholic before converting to his second wife's Anglican faith, of a "desperate, cheap shot" ahead of elections Saturday by challenging the prime minister to say whether he believed gays went to hell.

Also Tuesday, police charged 15 Greenpeace activists following a protest on Sydney Harbour Bridge demanding climate change action.

From The Associated Press

6 killed as security agents attack Sudanese sit-ins

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudanese protesters said Tuesday that security agents loyal to ousted President Omar al-Bashir attacked their sit-ins overnight, setting off clashes that killed six people, including an army officer, and heightened tensions as the opposition holds talks with the military.

Both the protesters and the ruling military council said the violence was instigated by al-Bashir loyalists from within the security forces. Over the course of his 30-year rule, al-Bashir formed a shadowy security apparatus made up of several paramilitary groups.

The violence erupted after nightfall Monday, when protesters in Sudan usually swell during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which is marked by dawn to dusk fasting.



al-Bashir

tal, Khartoum, the doctors union said.

Ahmed Rabie, a spokesman for the SPA, said more than 200 people were wounded. The military council confirmed the death of an army major and said three troops were wounded.

The military removed al-Bashir from power

The Sudan Doctors Committee, which is part of the Sudanese Professionals Association that has been spearheading the protests since December, reported the six fatalities. The clashes took place in several locations across the country, including the main sit-in outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum, the doctors union said.

Ahmed Rabie, a spokesman for the SPA, said more than 200 people were wounded. The military council confirmed the death of an army major and said three troops were wounded.

The military removed al-Bashir from power

April 11 after four months of mass protests in which security forces killed around 100 protesters and at least five soldiers who tried to protect the demonstrators.

On Monday, Sudanese prosecutors announced that they have charged al-Bashir with involvement in killing and incitement to kill protesters during the uprising, according to the state news agency SUNA.

In Khartoum, the clashes erupted as the protesters were expanding their sit-in area and setting up barricades made of burning tires and tree branches to block off major streets. The SPA said the road closures were in response to the military council's delay in handing over power to civilians. It called for another march on Tuesday, and protest leaders have threatened a general strike and civil disobedience.

Balkans on high alert as floods hit Bosnia, Croatia

Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Homes and roads have flooded in parts of Bosnia and heavy rains broke their banks following rivers break, triggering concerns Tuesday of a repeat of floods five years ago in which dozens died.

Bosnian media reported that rescuers are searching for a 6-year-old boy who fell into a swollen stream near his home in the central Bosnian village of Begov

Han on Tuesday.

Several local authorities in northern and central Bosnia introduced emergency measures Tuesday to battle the floods and urged residents living close to rivers to evacuate their homes. Some schools have canceled classes, while electricity and water supplies have been disrupted.

The rainfall has also caused landslides, closing local roads. The Vrbanja river has destroyed

a temporary pedestrian bridge near the town of Banja Luka.

In Serb-run Bosnia, Republika Srpska, a government coordination team was due to meet later Tuesday to assess the situation, while Bosnia's army said it was ready to help if needed.

Officials across the country sought to dispel concerns the region was facing a repeat of the floods five years ago.

"We don't expect the 2014 situ-

ation because the intensity of the rainfall was much higher then," said Dusan Vranjes, an emergency sector official in the northwestern town of Prijedor.

In neighboring Croatia, authorities raised flood defenses in the towns of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Korana and Karlovac.

Croatian public broadcaster HRT says firefighters have saved eight tourists, including two children, in a central area.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Long-missing woman found in man's freezer

FL MARGATE — The case of a missing Florida woman has been solved six years later after her body was found inside a freezer at a scrap warehouse.

The business owner said Friday she opened the freezer and found the body of Heather Lacey, 35, last month.

Lacey's dad told the Sun Sentinel he hadn't heard from her since Thanksgiving 2013.

The discovery came after Jonathan Escarzaga was found dead inside his apartment in February. The freezer had been in his apartment and was moved to the scrap warehouse after the apartment manager hired a company to remove the appliances.

Police have not said whether Escarzaga played a role in her death or if the two knew each other.

Man held after flag set on fire at memorial

CA CITY OF INDUSTRY — A transient has been arrested for allegedly setting an American flag on fire at a memorial for a fallen California Highway Patrol officer.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said the incident occurred Sunday in the City of Industry.

The memorial honors motorcycle Officer David Romero, who was struck and killed there in 2005.

The Sheriff's Department said the flag burning was witnessed by a CHP officer. The officer took Scott Kennard, 41, into custody but was unable to save the flag.

The American flag at the memorial has been replaced.

Police: Driver fled, saying 'I don't think so'

NM LAS CRUCES — A New Mexico woman is facing charges after police say she fled an officer during a traffic stop and told him, "I don't think so."

Dona County court documents show Ricci Barnett was arrested April 21 following the exchange.

According to court documents, an officer tried to pull over Barnett, 41, for driving the wrong way on a one-way street in Las Cruces, but she refused to stop. The documents say the officer made contact with Barnett as she stopped at a red light.

When the officer showed Barnett his badge, court documents say she responded, "I don't think so," and drove off. She was eventually taken into custody and charged with aggravated fleeing from a law enforcement officer and reckless driving.

Court could rule on pet visitation for ex-couple

ME PORTLAND — A Maine woman is calling for the state's highest court to grant domestic partners custody rights to pets after a relationship fizzles.

THE CENSUS

\$19K

The amount of a Michigan couple's water bill after a broken pipe in a crawl space leaked about 1 million gallons over two months. A tenant at the couple's rental property apparently didn't notice the leak. The *Mining Journal* in the state's Upper Peninsula reported that owner Ashley Cody appeared at a township City Council meeting last week and said she's "ready for this to be over." The council is trying to come up with a policy to deal with catastrophic water losses. Cody and her husband, Matt, aren't expected to pay the enormous bill, but a compromise hasn't been reached.



BECKY BOHREN/AP

A solitary stroll

A hiker treks on a section of Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska, on Sunday. The glacier is a popular attraction for tourists and locals.

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case Tuesday. Jessica Sardina, 25, of Bangor, wants shared custody of Honey, a lab-shepherd mix.

The Bangor Daily News reported Sardina is appealing a finding by a district court judge last year that Kelvin Liriano, 25, of Old Town was the dog's sole owner because only his signature was on Honey's adoption papers. The judge said he was "stuck with the laws of property."

Sardina and Liriano's relationship ended in 2018. Maine law states a judge may order married couples to share custody of animals, but that standard doesn't apply to unmarried couples.

Woman escapes with cat as car hits water

MA BLACKSTONE — A woman was able to save herself and her cat after the car they were riding in plunged into a Massachusetts river.

Blackstone Fire Chief Michael Sweeney said the woman had just picked up her cat from the groom-

er on Saturday when she crashed the car into the Blackstone River. Sweeney said the woman grabbed the cat, which was in a pet carrier, and climbed out the window before the car sank.

The woman in her 60s was taken to the hospital for cuts on her hand. Both the woman and the cat were expected to be OK.

School drops 'God bless America' after pledge

PA SPRINGFIELD — A Pennsylvania school principal will no longer say "God bless America" after leading students in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Peter Brigg's practice at Sabod Elementary School in Springfield led at least one parent to complain to the Freedom From Religion Foundation, whose attorney contacted the district. The group claimed it violated the U.S. Constitution's prohibition of government-sponsoring religious messages.

The district decided to cease the practice after consulting with its lawyer. In a statement, the district says it is not prohibiting

students from reciting "God bless America" after the pledge on their own.

The foundation said "young elementary school children don't need to be coerced into affirming God's name every morning."

Horse dies after falling into family pool

FL LAKE WORTH — A horse died after falling into a family's swimming pool in Florida.

Owner Erica Lucas said the animal was already in distress when it tried to drink from the pool and fell in. First responders found the large brown horse standing in about three feet of water. At one point, the owner of Shine, 23, said the animal was actually swimming in the pool.

A Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputy walked into the water, sat down on the steps and calmed Shine. According to the Palm Beach Post, rescuers then rigged 2-by-4s and a carpet to lead the animal out.

Shine had a seizure and died later that night. Lucas said the

horse died from colic and an intestinal obstruction, not from falling into the pool.

Spider sculpture to 'guard' pest business

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A giant creature has a new job guarding a Utah business. The St. George Spectrum reported that the "Giant Spider" sculpture will be the new mascot of Morgan Pest Control in St. George starting this week.

Artist Deveren Farley said he built the 17-foot sculpture from steel and Utah license plates he had bought from the Salt Lake City evidence department.

"Giant Spider" had been publicly displayed in downtown St. George as part of an exhibit until April, when Morgan Pest Control purchased the art piece.

The eight-legged critter has evoked strong reactions on both sides. Local businesses competed to purchase the sculpture, while some residents complained the creature was too scary for public display.

From wire reports



FACES

'Karate Kid' spinoff enters second season

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

After starring in three Karate Kid films in the 1980s, Ralph Macchio says he "basically said 'no' for 30 years" to ideas for more.

"It felt better and smarter to leave the legacy alone," said Macchio, who is now 57. He didn't want to "taint the legacy with a short-sighted idea or cash grab."

The "Cobra Kai" creators changed his mind with an idea about a half-hour series streaming on YouTube Premium. It takes place 34 years after the first movie.

Former nemesis Johnny Lawrence (again played by William Zabka) defines down on his luck. He's living in a run-down apartment, has just been fired from his job as a handyman, and he keeps seeing ads for Daniel LaRusso's successful car dealerships.

Lawrence ends up opening his own Cobra Kai Karate studio (using the same aggressive principles that he was taught and displayed in the films), and LaRusso discovers it driving by.

A martial arts rivalry is reignited as if it were yesterday.

"You would think some high school nemesis opening up a karate dojo would be like, 'You know what? Let him have his thing,' but for LaRusso, it snaps back into yesterday and that's what's fun about the Johnny Lawrence-LaRusso rivalry, is that they push each other's buttons," said Macchio.

The first season, which launched in 2018, scored 100% on Rotten Tomatoes and its first episode has more than 60 million views.

"I certainly had a feeling that the fan base was out there and that people, if we were able to present it in a smart way, that they would be interested in these characters decades later," said Macchio.

All 10 episodes of season two are now streaming and season three has been ordered.

And, some intrigue for fans: Elisabeth Shue confirms she's been approached to also revive her character, Ali, from the films. (She played LaRusso's girlfriend.)

"I have seen it and I thought it was well done," she said. "I'm thinking about it."

Watch a trailer online at youtu.be/1mUxOq8cEc0.



Macchio



Zabka



'Special' moment

Jessica Hecht
back in the
public eye on
Netflix show

From wire services

Fox will soon stop the music on its drama "Empire."

The upcoming sixth season of the show that focuses on a New York hip-hop and entertainment company will be its final one, the network announced Monday.

"Season 5 promises to be filled with drama, shocking surprises and more jaw-dropping moments," Fox said in a release Monday.

Terrence Howard stars as Lucious Lyon, the CEO of Empire Entertainment, and Taraji P. Henson plays his ex-wife, Cookie Lyon.

Ratings for the show dropped drastically over the years. "Empire" debuted in 2015 and averaged about 17 million viewers in its first season. Season 5 pulled in an average of 4 million viewers.

Real-life drama and scandal involving one of the series regulars also coincided with Season 5. Jussie Smollett, who plays Jamal Lyon, the middle son of Lucious and Cookie, was indicted on Feb. 20 on a felony count involving an alleged hate hoax. The actor had claimed that he was jumped by two men outside his Chicago apartment and that they shouted racist and homophobic slurs at him. But two months later, surveillance video reportedly told police that Smollett paid them to stage the "attack."

Smollett, 36, was eventually charged with 16 felony counts related to filing a false police report, but all charges were dropped in March in a surprise move. The FBI is currently reviewing the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of the charges.

The network left it unclear whether Smollett would return for Season 6. "By mutual agreement, the studio has negotiated an extension to Jussie Smollett's option for Season 6, but at this time there are no plans for the character of Jamal to return to 'Empire,'" Fox Entertainment and 20th Century Fox TV said in a joint statement at the time of the renewal.

Jamal got married in the April 24 episode, marking the TV's first black, gay wedding, but the character was written out of the season's last two episodes following the Smollett scandal.

The show's 100th episode will fall within Season 6.

Other news

■ **Barry Zito** has written a book detailing his rise and fall as a baseball pitcher and his intensifying belief in religion. "Catcher's Prayer" was published Sept. 17 by Thomas Nelson, a division of HarperCollins Christian Publishing.

■ **Jim Fowler**, a naturalist who rose to fame on the long-running television program "Wild Kingdom" and who famously bantered with Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show," died May 8. He was 89.

By MESFIN FEKADE
Associated Press

Actress Jessica Hecht, best known to the world for her supporting roles in "Friends" and "Breaking Bad," was riding the subway in New York and someone was staring at her.

So she asked, "What am I doing that's making you upset?" His reply: "Excuse me, you're my hero on that show."

Hecht says that's been the common response — from men and women, old and young, black and white — to her performance as the loving, emotional mother of a gay son with cerebral palsy on Netflix's "Special."

Fans on social media have tweeted that the Tony-nominated Hecht is "a national treasure" and "a gift to this world" for this performance — though she wouldn't know it because she doesn't have a Twitter account.

On "Special," Hecht, 53, plays Karen Hayes, the overbearing mother of a nearly 30-year-old disabled son trying to live his best life and find his voice. He's portrayed by series creator and executive producer Ryan O'Connell.

"I have people who would never realize you touch talking to me in the street right now," Hecht said. "I think it's an incredible cross section because ... it's also like middle-aged women and men who are like, 'Oh my god, that show is so great.' I didn't realize the scope of Netflix also. I'm a moron."

"Special" debuted on Netflix last month and uses O'Connell's 2015 memoir, "I'm Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves." Hecht joined the series after "The Big Bang Theory" actor and "Special" executive producer Jim Parsons, who became friends with Hecht while working on a play together, told her about the show. She was also contacted by director Anna Dokoza, who had worked with Hecht and Hecht's husband, Emmy-winning director-producer Adam Bernstein.

Dokoza, also an executive producer on the show, praised Hecht's stirring performance as a codependent single mother trying to learn how to put herself first.

"What I loved about this script is that this relationship is codependent because it has to be. She ties his shoelaces. This is not a maybe. This is the actual definition of a codependent relationship. So to see him want to break away from that, and to have a parent who's been raising him for 28 years have no identity beyond that, sort of stop and go — 'Who am I when I am not tying his shoelaces?'"

— is incredible. I just knew that Jessica could deliver that fine line," Dokoza said.

"She's an everyday person that's trying to figure out how to live and how to assist her child and how to, for the first time in her life, put herself first. You can see all that on her face. In that final emotional scene when she's actually, they just lay it all out, that's heart-wrenching."

That last scene actually had to be re-shot, though, since the footage was lost. Hecht remembers that her makeup was off, it was 2 in the morning, and she was soaking in the bathtub when she got the phone call with that bad news. "Is there any chance you can come back?" she heard on the other end of the phone. "Is there any chance you're still awake? We've lost all your coverage of that scene."

They re-shot it, but then a month later the original was recovered.

"They used like 30 seconds of the new one," Hecht said. "Everything else was the original done that night."

"Special" is a series you can binge-watch in less than two hours since each of the eight episodes are roughly 15 minutes.

Hecht said shooting a short series "felt like doing an indie movie," and said it all worked thanks to O'Connell's sharp writing skills.

"When you read short stories, each one has something juicy in it. That's the way the script, the whole series, read to me. He allows each character to truly be developed in certain episodes," she said.

Hecht has had a steady career in the past three decades: On "Friends," she was part of one of the first lesbian couples on television as Susan Bunch, the wife of Ross Geller's ex-wife, Carol Willick. She played Gretchen Schwartz in "Breaking Bad," and she has appeared often on Broadway, earning a 2010 Tony nomination for best featured actress in a play for Arthur Miller's "A View from the Bridge" (she lost to co-star Scarlett Johansson).

"I've been blessed to work on things both in the theater and on TV where people have substantial stories about human life that they want to tell," she said.

What I loved about this script is that this relationship is codependent BECAUSE IT HAS TO BE.

Anna Dokoza
director of "Special,"
about a single mother of
a son with cerebral palsy

Actress Jessica Hecht, shown April 24, says she didn't realize how influential her Netflix series "Special" was until she had fans of all descriptions approach her in public.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, INVISION/AP

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OPINION

The grim logic of US trade war with China

By NOAH SMITH

Bloomberg News

A month ago, I declared that President Donald Trump's trade war against China looked like it might be winding down. I was wrong. Instead of capitulating in exchange for some agricultural purchases and other minor concessions, Trump is doubling down. He's raising tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports from 10% to 25% and imposing new tariffs on almost all of the remaining \$325 billion or so.

China this week said it would retaliate and starting next month would impose tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. goods. This is the biggest trade war in modern American history.

There were several reasons it looked as if Trump might back off. First, it's very hard to verify whether Chinese theft of intellectual property — one of the biggest and most justified complaints from the U.S. side — is still happening. Even if Chinese companies and the Chinese military were to stop appropriating the fruits of U.S. research and development, they would still be able to make some progress by cleverly reverse-engineering American-made products, raising accusations of continued espionage.

A similar enforceability problem applies to Chinese non-tariff trade barriers; for example, Chinese local governments just unofficially helping Chinese companies outcompete American companies in the domestic market. So even if China acceded to U.S. demands, ensuring compliance would be hard. The difficulty of establishing a credible enforcement mechanism is probably a big reason trade talks have broken down.

Second, the U.S. has lost the U.S. Economists have shown that the actual burden of tariffs has fallen mostly on American consumers — in other words, the prices consumers pay for imported goods has risen, while the prices Chinese sellers receive hasn't changed very much.

China's ascent in the 21st century directly imperils U.S. military dominance, as economic and technological supremacy tends to translate into military supremacy.

And higher prices on capital goods and intermediate goods is raising expenses for U.S. manufacturers, making them less competitive. Meanwhile, Chinese retaliation has hurt U.S. farmers.

So with victory hard to verify and losses mounting, it looked like there was little reason to continue the trade war. Yet Trump is doubling down. Why?

Trump may be calculating that the strong U.S. economy and resilient stock markets mean that there is little downside to continuing the trade war. Despite higher import prices, real wages have generally continued to rise at a modest rate.

The economy may continue to add jobs at a strong pace, despite a historically low unemployment rate.

Meanwhile, U.S. stock markets are not all that much below record highs, having largely recovered from a tumble in late 2018. China's announcement of retaliatory tariffs has caused a modest dip in equity markets, though that may well be temporary.

With the economy doing well enough for many Americans not to notice the pinch from the trade war, losses on the U.S. side have been concentrated among farmers. And it seems that Trump is betting that a combination of government payouts and cultural affinity will mean few farmers desert him at the ballot box.

Meanwhile, the trade war appears to be hurting China's economy. It's hard to isolate the effect of the dispute from other factors, like Chinese government attempts

to crack down on the shadow-banking system. But the International Monetary Fund forecasts that the immediate blow from the trade war is hitting China much harder.

Chinese exports, fixed-asset investment, consumption and industrial production may already have taken a hit. In the long term, both U.S. tariffs and China's retaliation may deter multinational companies from producing goods in China; some already are blaming the trade war for a slowdown in foreign direct investment. And by forcing China to shift from exports to investment in order to sustain growth, the trade war might push the country toward a less productive growth model.

There may be a grim sort of logic to this approach. So far, China's ascent in the 21st century has looked unstoppable, as it gobbled up one manufacturing industry after another, shouldered the U.S. aside as the world's biggest exporter, and became the beating heart of the East Asian economic supercluster. In addition to threatening to relegate North America to the global economy's periphery, this trend directly imperils U.S. military dominance, as economic and technological supremacy tends to translate into military supremacy.

If Trump wants to slow China's ascent as a superpower, a trade war might be an effective way to do it. If the harm to the U.S. is modest and the costs for China are severe and lasting, Trump might conclude that the former are acceptable losses. Geopolitical primacy, not maximum prosperity for all humans, might be the president's true objective.

It's also possible, of course, that the trade war is a purely populist endeavor, and that maintaining tariffs is simply a way for Trump to look tough. If he calculates that there is less to be gained from striking a combination of government payouts and cultural affinity will mean few farmers desert him at the ballot box.

Meanwhile, the trade war appears to be hurting China's economy. It's hard to isolate the effect of the dispute from other factors, like Chinese government attempts

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Noah Smith is an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University.

Putin's Syrian playbook won't work in Venezuela

By ELI LAKE

Bloomberg Opinion

In Venezuela, it looks like Russia is once again playing a weak hand well. The U.S. has imposed crippling sanctions on the state-owned oil company and lifted them on officials who have joined the opposition, such as the intelligence chief. And yet, the Russian support of Russian, Venezuelan strongman Nicolas Maduro survives.

So when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrives this week in Moscow, his counterpart, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, will undoubtedly be looking to exploit the situation by using a familiar Russian ploy: Enlarge the political crisis, and then offer to help solve it.

This is what Lavrov did in Syria. In 2016, when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrives this week in Moscow, his counterpart, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, will undoubtedly be looking to exploit the situation by using a familiar Russian ploy: Enlarge the political crisis, and then offer to help solve it.

The Russians are planning a similar move with Venezuela. The Russian Foreign Ministry's official statement summarizing a May 1 phone call between Pompeo and Lavrov calls for "the dialogue of all political forces in the country." U.S. officials tell me they expect Lavrov to propose talks be-

tween Maduro and the opposition whereby the autocrat would remain in power as the two sides negotiate conditions for a new election.

This is not a novel idea. Maduro himself has conducted talks with his opposition before, only to renege on his commitments later on. In January, Sen. Chris Murphy and former Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes floated the idea of a kind of political peace process for Venezuela, excluding Russia but including two other predator states, China and Cuba.

Any kind of negotiation with Maduro is a trap. To start, he will use the time he purchases at the bargaining table to divide the opposition that has rallied behind the interim president, Juan Guaido. That opposition has numerous factions, including many disenchanted supporters of Maduro's mentor, Hugo Chavez. A drawn-out process plays to Maduro's advantage. It also undermines the constitutional claim of power of Guaido, who assumed the presidency after Maduro won an illegitimate election.

There is still some question, however, whether this Russian strategy will work. In a briefing with reporters last week, a senior State Department official downplayed expectations that there would be a deal to get Russia to cooperate in Venezuela. What's more, U.S. officials say there are plans to impose new sanctions on Russia.

Pompeo has accused Russia's state oil company, Rosneft, of violating new U.S.

sanctions on Venezuela's state-run oil company. (Rosneft has denied the accusation.) Pompeo has also put the blame squarely on Moscow for urging Maduro to stay in Caracas and not desert for Cuba when Guaido called for a day of street protests.

Of course, there is still the matter of President Donald Trump, whose public comments have not exactly aligned with Pompeo's. Earlier this month, after a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump echoed the Russian line about how Russia only wants "to see something positive happen for Venezuela."

Despite Trump's history of cringe-worthy public deference to Putin, however, he has shown a willingness to confront Russia when necessary. He has held firm on sanctions imposed on Russia after the 2016 elections, for instance, and has twice ordered major airstrikes on Russia's client in Syria. Also it's worth noting that U.S. special operations forces remain in Syria despite Trump's promise in December to precipitously withdraw them.

That's why it matters that Trump and his top advisers have said publicly that all options remain on the table for Venezuela. And it's yet another reason to be skeptical that the Russian playbook will succeed in Venezuela as it did in Syria.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Eli Lake covers national security and foreign policy. He covered national security and intelligence for The Washington Times, The New York Sun and UPI.

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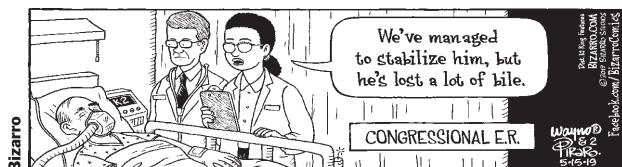
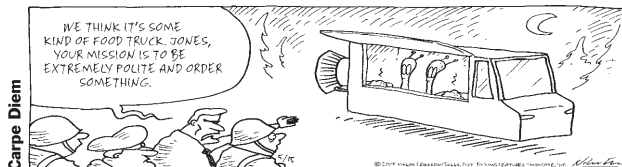
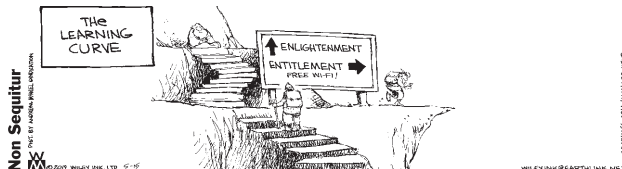
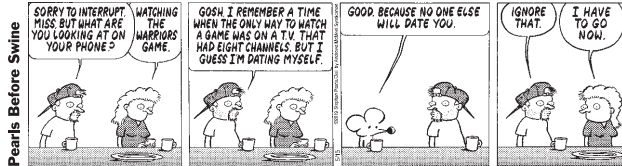
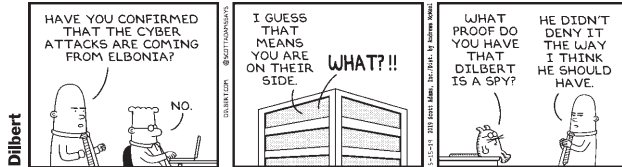
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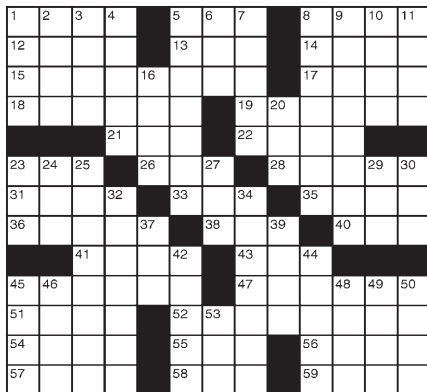
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Stephen
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hindrance
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26 Like some human
28 Avoids work
31 Gumbo or
bisquit

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| 9 Battery brand | 46 Big bash |
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| 11 Swiss peaks | 49 Tosses in |
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Fernando Verdasco, Spain, def. Kyle Edmund, Britain, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.
Denis Khachaturyan, Canada, def. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
Islo Djere, Serbia, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-4.
Casper Ruud, Norway, def. Alex Evans, Britain, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. John Millman, Australia, 3-6, 6-7 (1), 6-3.
Serbia Novak Djokovic, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Women
First Round

Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, def. Aleksandra Samolova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.
Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-2.
Serbia Williams, (10), United States, def. Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, 6-4, 6-2.
Garbine Muguruza, Spain, def. Zheng Saisai, China, 6-3, 6-4.
Victoria Azarenka, Britain, def. Alison Riske, United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Viktoria Kuznetsov, Slovakia, def. Sara Errani, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Aria Tomljanovic, Australia, def. Tamara Korpatsch, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Venus Williams, United States, def. Angelika Kerber, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-2, 6-1.
Cristina Burris, (14), Estonia, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Venus Williams, United States, def. Polona Herczeg, Slovenia, 6-4, 6-3.
Amanda Anisimova, United States, def. Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, 6-3, 6-2.
Ajla Kenin, United States, def. Jasmine Paolini, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles
First Round

Nikola Mekic and Janko Skugor (4), Croatia, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 6-4, 6-3.
Raven Klaassen, South Africa, and Michal Venus (6), New Zealand, def. Alexander and Mischa Zverev, Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Henri Kontinen, Finland, and John Peers, (8), Australia, def. Radu Albot, Moldova, and Nikola Pietrangeli, Georgia, 6-3, 6-2.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, and Mate Pavic (5), Croatia, def. Ben McLachlan, Australia, and Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2.
Zsuzsanna Kulcsar, Poland, and Marcello Meo (1), Brazil, def. Simone Bolelli and Andreas Seppi, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.
Cristina Burris, (14), Estonia, and Artem Sitak, New Zealand, def. Borna Coric, Croatia, and Igor Dimitov, United States, 7-6 (5), 6-2.

Women
First Round

Vernonika Kuznetsov and Vera Zvonareva, Russia, def. Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, Spain, 6-4, 6-2.
Alicia Rosolska, Poland, and Yang Zhaozhong, China, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-4, 6-2.
Miriam Kolodziej, United States, and Demi Schuurs (8), Netherlands, def. Yuliyana Kichenok, Ukraine, and Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-2.
Alicia Rosolska, Poland, and Yang Zhaozhong, China, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-4, 6-2.
Miriam Kolodziej, United States, and Demi Schuurs (8), Netherlands, def. Yuliyana Kichenok, Ukraine, and Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-2.

College baseball

Monday's scores

EAST		WEST	
Momouth, 9, Iona 4		Los Angeles 3, San Diego 1	
Niagara, 9, Siena 7		Marquette 15, St. Peter's 2	
SOUTH			
Gardner-Webb 9, ETSU, ccd.		Wake Forest 9, Miami 7	
FAR WEST			
Arizona 14, San Houston 5		Arizona State 10, Wake Forest 9	
TOURNAMENTS			
NIAA			
Arizona Christian 1, Jamestown 4			
Brigham Young 7, Huntington 5			
Concordia (Neb.), 10, Eastern Southern 1			
Georgetown (Ky.), 6, Indiana Southeast 1			
Marion (Ind.), 6, Marian (Ind.) 3			
Mobile 5, Baker 4 Innings			
Olivet Nazarene 9, Jarvis Christian 3			
Talladega 3, Thomas (Ga.) 2			
Union (Ky.), 13, St. Xavier 12			
Webster International 5, Campbellsville 2			
York (Neb.), 7, Columbia (Mo.) 5			
NCAA			
SW Christian 20, Arlington Baptist 6, 5 innings			

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L T Pts OF GA

Philadelphia 1 0 0 0 0

D.C. United 7 3 2 23 11

Montreal 6 5 2 20 19

New York City FC 5 3 1 16 18

Atlanta 5 3 2 17 12

Tampa Bay 5 3 2 17 12

Columbus 5 3 2 17 12

New York 4 3 2 16 18

New York 4 3 2 16 18

Orlando City 3 5 3 12 17

San Jose 3 5 3 12 17

New England 3 5 3 12 17

Western 3 5 3 12 17

Los Angeles 8 1 2 27 8

LA Galaxy 6 1 2 18 16

Seattle 6 1 2 18 16

Portland 6 1 2 18 16

Real Salt Lake 5 4 2 17 16

New England 4 6 1 13 20

Vancouver 3 6 1 12 14

Portland 3 6 1 10 21

Colorado 0 9 2 2 16 30

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday, May 8

Atlanta 2, Toronto 0

Columbus 3, LA Galaxy 1

Portland 1, New England 0

Montreal 2, New York 1

Friday, May 10

Cincinnati 1, Montreal 1

Columbus 3, FC Dallas 1

New York City FC 2, LA Galaxy 0

Los Angeles FC 3, Columbus 0

New England 3, Minnesota United 0

San Jose 3, Columbus 2

Seattle 1, Houston 0

Saturday, May 11

Atlanta 1, Orlando City 0

D.C. United 1, Sporting Kansas City 0

Portland 1, Atlanta 0

D.C. United at Toronto FC

Portland at Houston

Atlanta at Vancouver

Orlando at Seattle

Thursday's game

FC Dallas at Los Angeles FC

New England at Montreal

Atlanta at Real Salt Lake

Chicago at San Jose

Seattle at Portland

Colorado at Minnesota United

D.C. United at Houston

Vancouver at Sporting Kansas City

Los Angeles FC at FC Dallas

Atlanta at New York City FC

Colorado at LA Galaxy

NWSL

W L T Pts OF GA

Houston 3 1 0 9 6

Utah 3 1 0 9 6

Chicago 3 1 0 9 6

North Carolina 2 2 1 8 11

Washington 2 2 1 8 11

Portland 2 2 1 8 11

Seattle 2 2 1 8 11

San Diego 2 2 1 8 11

San Jose 2 2 1 8 11

Portland 2 2 1 8 11

San Jose 2 2 1 8 11

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Seattle 2 2 1 8 11

San Diego 2 2 1 8 11

San Jose 2 2 1 8 11

Portland 2 2 1 8 11

San Jose 2 2 1 8 11

Portland 2 2 1 8 11

San Jose 2 2 1 8 11

Portland 2 2 1 8 11

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS - Signed RHP Jake Newberry, to Innings (PCL).

Selected the contract of OF Nicky Lopez from Akron.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Placed RHP Landon Hargrett, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Placed RHP Hargrett, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS - Designated Ben Kendrick, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Designated Kendrick, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

NEW YORK YANKEES - Placed OF Mike Tauchman, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Placed Tauchman, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

NEW YORK YANKEES - Placed OF Mike Tauchman, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Placed Tauchman, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

NEW YORK YANKEES - Placed OF Mike Tauchman, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Placed Tauchman, to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

NEW YORK YANKEES - Placed OF Mike Tauchman, to Scr

SPORTS BRIEFS/AUTO RACING

Briefly

Hicks back, Yanks put two more on IL

Associated Press

NEW YORK — No sooner do the injury-ravaged Yankees finally get a player back than two more go down.

On the same day New York activated center fielder Aaron Hicks for the first time this season, third baseman Miguel Andujar and right-hander Jonathan Loaisiga were placed on the 10-day injured list.

The moves Monday left the Yankees with 13 players on the IL. They've put 17 on the list for 18 total stints this year — Andujar now twice because of a small labrum tear in his right shoulder. Loaisiga, the rotation replacement for injured James Paxton, has a strained rotator cuff and will be shut down for four weeks.

Despite all the missing firepower, New York (24-16) has received outstanding contributions from several unheralded fill-ins and sits just a half-game behind first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Runner-up for 2018 AL Rookie of the Year, Andujar initially was sidelined from April 1 to May 3. He is 3-for-34 since returning and is batting .128 overall (6-for-47) without an extra-base hit.

Loaisiga had an MRI on Monday. He was placed on the IL retroactive to Friday.

The 24-year-old Loaisiga is 1-1 with a 4.50 ERA in three starts and one relief appearance.

In other baseball news: ■ Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia had his minor league injury rehab assignment put on hold following a setback with a lingering left knee injury.

Pedroia was scratched from a game with Double-A Portland on Saturday, and his return from the rehab assignment was announced Monday.

The veteran infielder has played just nine games over the past two seasons since having surgery to replace cartilage in his left knee after the 2017 season. He was 2-for-20 in six games with Boston earlier this season.

■ Dodgers pitcher Julio Urias was arrested Monday for investigation of misdemeanor domestic battery.

He was arrested at about 7:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Beverly Center shopping mall, Los Angeles police spokeswoman Norma Eisenman said Tuesday. No details were released.

The Dodgers gave in a statement they learned of what happened Tuesday morning and had no immediate comment while they were gathering information.

Lawsuit blames Woods for driver's death

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The parents of a drunken driver who died in a car crash last year are suing Tiger Woods. They blame the golfer and his

girlfriend for allowing their son to drive home from their Florida restaurant while intoxicated.

The wrongful death lawsuit filed Monday says Nicholas P. Immesberger was served excessive amounts of alcohol before the Dec. 10 car crash.

Immesberger worked at The Woods restaurant in Jupiter that Woods owns. His girlfriend, Erica Herman, is general manager.

The lawsuit says Herman recruited Immesberger as a bartender despite knowing that he was an alcoholic. It alleges that the restaurant's employees, managers and owners allowed the 24-year-old man to drive after being over-served alcohol.

"It's very sad," Woods said at the PGA Championship in New York on Tuesday. He said it was a "terrible night, a terrible ending."

Giants sign Remmers to solidify right side

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants have a new right side of their offensive line.

Two months after acquiring right guard Kevin Zeitler in a trade with the Cleveland Browns, the Giants found a new right tackle Tuesday, signing veteran free agent Mike Remmers.

Contract details were not immediately available for the 30-year-old, who has started all 71 regular-season and postseason games in which he's played the previous five seasons.

Remmers spent the previous two years with the Vikings, starting all 16 games in 2018 at right guard. He also played right tackle and left guard during his tenure in Minnesota.

Revolution hire Arena as new head coach

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Revolution have hired five-time MLS Cup winner and former U.S. national coach Bruce Arena as its coach and sports director.

Arena succeeds Brad Friedel, who was fired as coach last week, and Michael Burns, the general manager who was dismissed Monday. New England is 3-8-2 and is last in the Eastern Conference. Arena is the eighth coach in club history.

The 67-year-old Arena has coached 14 seasons in Major League Soccer, with a record of 202-121-89 with the New York Red Bulls, D.C. United and L.A. Galaxy. He won titles with D.C. United in 1996 and 1997 and with the Galaxy in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

He has had two stints as U.S. national coach and holds the record for victories with 81. Arena also won five NCAA Division I championships over 18 seasons at Virginia.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

France's Simon Pagenaud drives through a turn Saturday on his way to winning the Indy GP IndyCar road race near at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis.

Commentary

IndyCar, NASCAR roll into showcase month

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The most prolific month in motorsports arrived with two strong races, with IndyCar and NASCAR both opening May with momentum-grabbing entertaining events that should carry the series through their Memorial Day showcases.

Simon Pagenaud, his future with Team Penske shaky because of a 21-race losing streak, stalked five-time IndyCar champion Scott Dixon in the rain around Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the closing laps of its road course race. Then the Frenchman completed a phenomenal late pass to win the Grand Prix and prove he's fighting hard for his job.

Hours later at Kansas Speedway, Brad Keselowski closed out one of the more entertaining NASCAR races of the season with an overtime victory that gave team owner Roger Penske a sweep of the day. More specifically, six different Penske drivers tallied five victories in four series spanning nine days to open May — The Captain's favorite time of the year.

Penske, a 17-time winner of the Indianapolis 500, this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of his first Indy entry. This is a celebratory month for motorsports, a time for series to shine leading into the Sunday before Memorial Day, considered the biggest single day of racing in the world. Formula One will stream through the streets of Monaco early May 26, then IndyCar and "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" take the stage at IMS. NASCAR closes the day with the Coca-Cola 600, a grueling race of attrition and one of the few remaining crown jewel events on the schedule.

The stage is set for IndyCar and NASCAR to dazzle a new audience, make new fans, and prove racing isn't a dying sport.

Both series got strong starts with last Saturday's doubleheader, a Pagenaud and Keselowski sweep,

and the anticipation carried into Tuesday, when Indianapolis officially opened for the 500. IndyCar is enjoying a resurgence and slow, steady growth in both the series and its spotlight event.

McLaren is entering the 500 as an independent entry — the first McLaren at Indy since 1976 — and Fernando Alonso, the popular retired Formula One champion, is back for a second attempt at winning the "Triple Crown." Oriol Servia was expected to become the 36th entrant, which means real bumping in this weekend's qualifying. Three drivers won't make the 500, and Penske has joined Michael Andretti and Chip Ganassi among the heavyweight owners wondering if IndyCar's full-time teams should be exempt from bumping.

A new qualifying format will make for a tense Sunday session, all played out live as NBC rehearses for the 500 and its first broadcast of one of sports television's true iconic properties.

NASCAR, meanwhile, has its \$1 million All-Star event Saturday night at Charlotte Motor Speedway and with it comes a chance for the series to string together consecutive competitive events. A snoozer of a race two weeks ago at Dover created the feeling a driver mutiny was looming over a rules package that has so far failed to meet expectations.

NASCAR this season introduced the new package in an effort to improve the racing, but many drivers warned it wasn't going to work. The package hasn't been awful, and many of this year's races have been watchable, which is an improvement from last season. But the package has not lived up to the hype and drivers have voiced their frustration.

Many drivers spent last week complaining NASCAR will not listen to their input and the lousy Dover race is the just result.

But then came Saturday night at Kansas Speedway, in cooler temperatures, and the package finally delivered a compelling race. The race went to overtime and the 23 lead changes were one short of the total combined lead changes in both Kansas Cup races last year.



by JENNA FRYER • AP

NBA PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
Eastern Conference
Toronto vs. Milwaukee
 Wednesday: at Milwaukee
 APN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Thursday CET;
 9:30 a.m. Thursday JKT
 Friday: at Milwaukee
 APN-Sports, 2:30 a.m. Saturday CET;
 9:30 a.m. Saturday JKT
Sunday: at Toronto
 x-Thursday, May 23: at Toronto
 x-Saturday, May 25: at Toronto
 x-Monday, May 27: at Milwaukee
Western Conference
Portland vs. Golden State
 Tuesday: at Golden State
 Thursday: at Golden State
 APN-Sports, 3 a.m. Friday CET; 10 a.m. Friday JKT
 Saturday: at Portland
 Monday: at Portland
 x-Wednesday, May 22: at Golden State
 x-Friday, May 24: at Portland
 x-Sunday, May 26: at Golden State

Playoff leaders

Scoring	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, GOK	11	122	100	376	34.2
Leonard, TOR	12	137	79	382	31.8
Harmon, HOU	10	108	58	316	31.6
George, OKC	5	44	40	143	28.6
Lillard, POR	12	112	71	241	28.4
Antetokounmpo, MIL	9	68	72	247	27.4
McCollum, POR	12	121	30	307	25.6
Jokić, DEN	14	112	66	352	25.1
Curry, GOK	12	92	64	291	24.2
Westbrook, OKC	14	73	114	233	22.9
DeRozan, SAN	7	58	38	154	22.0
Williams, LAC	9	45	34	130	21.7
Mitchell, UTA	36	24	107	214	21.4
Irving, BOS	6	69	36	192	21.3
Murray, DEN	14	107	28	213	21.3
LeVert, BRO	5	36	21	105	21.0
Slakam, TOR	12	97	38	249	20.8
Embiid, PHL	11	68	74	222	20.2
Aldridge, SAN	7	55	27	140	20.0
Gallinari, LAC	6	39	28	119	19.8
FG Percentage	FG	FGA	PCT		
Harrell, LAC	28	46	63	73.0	
Adams, OKC	26	42	62	66.7	
Favors, UTA	23	36	63.9		
Simmons, PHL	72	116	62.1		
Allen, BRO	19	32	59.4		
Gobert, UTA	19	32	59.4		
Capela, HOU	46	82	56.1		
Hill, MIL	41	75	54.7		
White, SAN	55	101	54.5		
Rebounds	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Drummond, DET	4	20	32	52	13.0
Jokić, DEN	14	54	128	182	13.0
Antetokounmpo, MIL	9	19	83	102	11.3
Kanter, POR	12	43	83	126	10.5
Embiid, PHL	7	21	94	115	10.5
Capela, HOU	11	41	72	113	10.3
Gobert, UTA	5	23	28	51	10.2
Aldridge, SAN	7	12	58	67	9.6
Green, GOK	12	28	83	111	9.2
Harris, PHL	12	12	98	110	9.2
Assists	G	AST	AVG		
Westbrook, OKC	5	53	10.6		
Rubio, UTA	4	43	8.6		
Jokić, DEN	14	115	8.4		
Green, GOK	12	96	8.0		
Williams, LAC	6	26	7.7		
Lowry, TOR	12	85	7.1		
Irving, BOS	9	63	7.0		
Jackson, DET	11	73	6.6		
Lillard, POR	12	72	6.0		

Calendar

May 14 — Draft lottery, Chicago.
 May 14-15 — Conference finals begin.
 May 14-19 — Draft combine, Chicago.
 May 30 — NBA Finals begin.
 June 10 — NBA Draft early entry en-
 rant withdrawal deadline (5 p.m. EDT).
 June 16 — NBA Finals latest possible
 date.
 June 20 — NBA Draft.
 July 5-15 — NBA Summer League, Las
 Vegas.



CARRIE ANTLENGER/AP

Milwaukee shows its support for the Bucks with a sign over the Milwaukee River in downtown Milwaukee last week. The team's playoff run has the city buzzing with anticipation that the team has a chance to win its first title since 1971.

Best: 'The best Wisconsin sports has ever been'

FROM BACK PAGE

and Marc Lasry, two hedge fund managers from New York, and said it paralleled the Selig family's sale of the Brewers to Los Angeles investor Mark Attanasio in 2005.

"In both cases the locals were skeptical whether we were these guys — whether they're buying the team to move the team," Olson said. "As it turns out, they've been really good stewards of these franchises."

Leading the Bucks' resurgence is MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo, a fan favorite and a source of pride for Milwaukee's Greek community. Antetokounmpo was born in Athens, Greece. He is just 24.

"It's important for the Greek community to be able to gather together as a unit and celebrate him. And he in turn celebrates us," said Tim Stasinoulas, 61, a Bucks fan since the team came to Milwaukee in 1968.

"The Bucks host an annual "Greek Night" event where fans get a Q&A session with Antetokounmpo. Since his arrival in Milwaukee in 2013, Antetokounmpo's been known to sing the Greek national anthem during those events.

"It's a bit of a renaissance in Milwaukee sports, just in general with the success recently of the Brewers and now we have the Bucks," said Stasinoulas. "Who

would have thought that the Packers would be third on the totem pole at this point?"

Rather than ranking each team's success, others take another view.

"This is the best Wisconsin sports has ever been as a whole," said Steven Slack, 35, a resident of Sun Prairie who was waiting for the game outside the arena.

"We've never had three teams actually in contention before simultaneously. Because we have, we literally have the MVP in all three leagues," he said, referring to reigning National League MVP Christian Yelich, Antetokounmpo's potential to win it this year, and Aaron Rodgers, the Packers quarterback who has won two MVPs and is in frequent contention.

The Bucks' success is also a financial boon for the city. Each playoff game is estimated to have a \$3 million economic impact on downtown businesses — everything from hotels to transportation and food and beverage, according to Visit Milwaukee, an agency that promotes tourism to the city.

It only helps that the Bucks are playing in their new half-billion-dollar arena for the first time this year, attracting dedicated and casual fans alike to the restaurants and bars in the plaza outside the stadium. Taxpayers contributed about \$250 million to the arena's construction.



MORRY GASH/AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, center, watches Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals between the Milwaukee Bucks and the Boston Celtics last week.

Away from the arena, the city has been expressing its pride for the team, too, with buses and streetcars flashing "Fear the Deer" and "Go Bucks" on their digital displays. The city's Public Market has a banner under its name with the same phrase, which is the team's rallying cry. Billboards on the highway are counting down the number of victories needed to win the championship.

Long-time season-ticket holder Rod Johnson, 55, went to games with his father back when tickets cost \$5 and the Bucks played in what was called the MECCA Arena. He saw Abdul-Jabbar play and remembers the 1971 championship season.

It's been an agonizing wait for another title.

"We're hoping for one more now," he said. "This could be the year."

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PREAKNESS

Several parties duel over Pimlico's future

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Aply nicknamed Old Hilltop, antiquated Pimlico Race Course has finally reached the point where its illustrious past might not be enough to assure a vibrant future.

The 144th Preakness will be run Saturday at Pimlico, and will be back next year, too. After that, well, nobody can predict the fate of a track where Man o' War, Seabiscuit, Secretariat and many others pranced to the winner's circle. There continues to be a push to have Laurel Park host the second leg of the Triple Crown.

Pimlico is in need of a major overhaul, and Baltimore city officials, the owners of the track and many trainers disagree on whether it's smart to spend nearly a half-billion dollars in upgrades. But while they are haggling, the track continues to fall into further disarray.

Citing the "safety and security of all guests and employees," the Maryland Jockey Club closed off 6,670 seats in the Pimlico grandstand last month. Many of the barns are dilapidated, and no amount of paint can mask the decrepit facade. It's not a good look for horse racing, which is reeling from horse deaths, a historical Kentucky Derby disqualification and no Derby winner in the Preakness for the first time in 23 years.

Despite Pimlico's problems, the historical landmark still has its supporters.

"The Preakness belongs to Baltimore, and we're going to do everything we can to make sure Preakness stays right here," said new Baltimore mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young, who's seeking state funding to redevelop Pimlico and the surrounding Park Heights neighborhood.

Meanwhile, the Stronach Group — which owns Pimlico and Laurel Park, as well as a training facility in Bowie, Md., and California tracks Santa Anita Park and Gulfstream — believes turning Laurel Park into a state-of-the-art facility worthy of hosting the Preakness is a better option.

Located just 27 miles southwest of Pim-



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The future of Pimlico has turned into a tug of war involving city officials, who want it to stay in Baltimore, and the owners of the track, who long to move the second jewel of the Triple Crown to nearby Laurel.

lico, Laurel Park already gets the lion's share of racing dates in Maryland — 168 to 12 for Pimlico — and the owners believe it's time for Maryland to choose one track or the other.

"Both of the facilities need pretty substantial upgrades in order to be competitive in sports entertainment," Bill Hecht, CEO and president of the Stronach Group, told The Associated Press. "We just don't see there being any state, city or private

interest in fully upgrading two. It's clear to us that the cost of the upgrades is not comparable. It's approximately \$80-100 million at Laurel."

Opened in 1870, Pimlico is the second-oldest track in America behind iconic Saratoga in upstate New York. Pimlico hosted the first Preakness Stakes in 1873 and has been the annual home of the second jewel of the Triple Crown since 1909. It's going to take an estimated \$425 million to rebuild

the facility and infrastructure, according to a study released last year by the Maryland Stadium Authority.

State officials have also weighed in on the matter.

Said Gov. Larry Hogan: "There's a discussion going on, but nobody has reached a consensus on what to do about it. It's an ongoing, long debate."

AP sports writer Stephen Whyno and AP writer David McFadden contributed to this report.



MARK BLUNCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Magna International founder Frank Stronach, center, poses with Holy Helena, right, after winning the Queen's Plate horse race at Woodbine Race Track in Toronto on July 2, 2017.

Stronachs at center of racing

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

The Stronach Group isn't well known outside of horse racing.

That distinction goes to the likes of modern Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Justify, trainer Bob Baffert and legends of the past, including Secretariat and Seattle Slew.

But few — if any — have had a bigger impact on the sport in recent years than the Stronach Group, led by Frank Stronach, Belinda Stronach and Tim Ritvo. They're the movers and shakers of the Canadian-based company that has recently been at the center of much of the good, the bad and the ugly of horse racing.

"No question the Stronach Group and the Stronach family invest in horse racing," National Thoroughbred Racing Association president and CEO Alex Waldrop said. "They do invest heavily in the business, and you've got to acknowledge that and thank them for that."

And blame them at times.

They own seven U.S. tracks, are credited for saving the industry in Maryland, boosted the sport in Florida and establishing the richest horse race in the world. They're also the subject of multiple family lawsuits, an ongoing quarrel over the future of the Preakness that's again the conversation with the race coming up this week, and own Santa Anita Park, which was the site of 23 horse deaths over a span of three months.

But love them or loathe them, it's fair to say horse racing wouldn't be where it is right now without the Stronach Group.

Before the disqualification of Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby, the fatalities at Santa Anita dealt another blow to horse racing's reputation and put the Stronach Group under the microscope. East Coast officials criticized the Stronach Group for being slow to react and institute reforms.

Waldrop praised the Stronach Group and horsemen in Califor-

nia for getting the situation under control. There's considerable debate over how the aftermath was handled and changes implemented, but Stronach Group executives did it their way.

The Stronach Group's fingerprints are all over the sport.

Austrian-Canadian billionaire Frank Stronach made his money in auto parts and wanted to put it into horse racing. It was his idea in 2016 to launch the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in Florida, which now has the biggest purse in the world at \$16 million.

"Frank is the only man that's invested his life earnings in racing," longtime Maryland-based owner and trainer Linda Gaudet said. "Nobody can criticize him for that because nobody else wants to do that. There's nobody out there that will do that. Nobody's going to fix a racetrack, build a racetrack."

AP sports writer David Ginsburg, Mid-Atlantic news reporter David McFadden and The Canadian Press contributed to report.

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Thomas out with wrist injury

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Justin Thomas withdrew from the PGA Championship on Monday, saying he was not willing to risk more pain in his right wrist by returning before it's fully healed.

Thomas, who won the PGA Championship two years ago at Quail Hollow, will miss a major for the first time since his rookie season in 2015.

He is dealing with a bone bruise first suffered in the Honda Classic when he intentionally struck a tree on his follow-through. He felt he aggravated it during the final round of the Masters, though he said it wasn't on any particular shot.

"I've seen too many people come back too early," Thomas said from his home in

Jupiter, Fla. "I plan on doing this successfully for a long time, and I don't want a dumb decision to set me back."

He said he could have played the PGA Championship this week at Bethpage Black, but without guaranteeing there wouldn't be a setback.

Thomas, the No. 5 player in the world, was replaced by Kelly Kraft.

Thomas tied for 12th at the Masters, where he made a hole-in-one on the 16th hole in the final round. He had not hit balls since then and withdrew from the Wells Fargo Championship two weeks ago to give his wrist every chance to heal.

He started hitting 50 balls a day over the weekend and was up to a 5-iron on Sunday. His plan was to try a driver on Monday, play a full 18 holes at home on Tuesday and then fly up to Bethpage on Wednesday.

"It hurt on a couple of shots and I felt like it wasn't worth it," he said.

Thomas believes if his club had snapped in half when he hit the tree at Honda that he would have been fine, but that he felt a shock up his right arm when it didn't break.

"I guess I should have chipped out," he said with a laugh. "I still made bogey, which is worse."

He did not know when he would return and has not ruled out Colonial next week, depending on how his wrist reacts to rest and rehab. He also has the Memorial on his schedule, and the next major is June 13-16 at Pebble Beach for the U.S. Open.

In the meantime, he is doing plenty of putting, but not much else.

"I figured out there's not a lot to do in South Florida if you don't play golf," he said.



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Justin Thomas will miss his first major since his rookie season in 2015. Thomas said he is still not fully recovered from a bone bruise he sustained during the Honda Classic, then aggravated during the Masters.

Bundle up: Bethpage prep begins in cold, rain

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Matt Kuchar is playing his 54th major championship and realized something new as he walked off the 18th green at Bethpage Black.

"I think this is the first time I've worn a beanie at the PGA Championship," he said Monday.

He wasn't alone. Tiger Woods was layered in clothing for an early nine holes of practice to beat the rain, with a knit beanie over his cap. From a distance, it was hard to distinguish between tour pros and club pros, major champions and major rookies. All of them were bundled in dark rain gear.

The PGA Championship has moved to May for the first time since 1949, and for the moment, everyone is feeling it.

Temperatures were still in the upper 40s when players headed out for the first official day of practice on the Long Island public course, already soaked from weekend rain with more falling in the afternoon.

Just like Lucas Glover remembers it.

Glover won the last major at Bethpage Black, the 2009 U.S. Open, during a week so inundated with rain that it didn't finish until Monday afternoon and the maintenance crew kept finding shoes in the muck weeks after it was over.

"Weather was just like this, actually," Glover said.

It should get better by the time the championship begins on Thursday, with temperatures pushing 70 by the weekend. But a wet course is a long course, and there are plenty of examples of that during morning practice.

Woods played the front nine and had 256 yards into the 524-yard seventh hole, which plays as a par 4 this week. He hammered a 5-wood that came up short. He tried a 3-wood from the same spot and that also failed to reach the green, and at that point Woods jokingly suggested he might consider teeing it up for a driver.



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Xander Schauffele picks his ball out of the rough on the fourth hole during a practice round for the PGA Championship on Monday at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Kuchar hit driver down the middle of the 15th fairway, contemplated his approach to an elevated green guarded by bunkers, and was surprised to see it come up short. It didn't get much better from there. He hit a 3-hybrid into the par-4 16th, and another 3-hybrid into the par-3 17th.

"The ball isn't bouncing, obviously," Glover said. "Long and hard, that's what I remember. It's kind of fun when it is that soft because the ball just kind of goes where you hit it. You get extra rewarded for a good shot, and a bad shot is still bad. So it's still fair. ... With it soft like this — probably going to be soft the first few days

— there will be a lot of long clubs in, so it will be to your advantage if you're striking your irons well, especially your long irons."

Woods won the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage, which featured a steady rain in the second round and an hour delay for rain in the final round. Glover won the next U.S. Open at Bethpage in 2009, and the PGA Tour staged its opening FedEx Cup playoff event on the Black Course twice. Nick Watney won in 2012, and Patrick Reed won in 2016.

Woods and Glover are among 14 players who will compete in all three majors, and the only major champions at Bethpage Black so

far.

"That might be the only thing that anybody will ever use his and my name in the same breath," Glover said with a laugh. "But any time you're lumped in with him, it's a pretty good honor. Pretty cool for sure."

Both have gone through some down times, Woods mainly from injury, Glover from the frustrating nature of golf.

It got so bad for Glover that in 2012 — the only time he missed a tournament at Bethpage — he finished at No. 216 on the money list and made it to the final round in only four of the 16 events he played. His last victory was at

'It's kind of fun when it is that soft because the ball just kind of goes where you hit it. You get extra rewarded for a good shot, and a bad shot is still bad. So it's still fair.'

Lucas Glover

2009 U.S. Open winner at Bethpage
Black on course conditions

Quail Hollow in 2011.

"I don't know of anybody that's played this game for a long time that hasn't gone through some ups and downs," Glover said. "I've come out the other side. I haven't won. I haven't accomplished any of my goals. But I've come through it, and there's not much you can do that you can't get through."

Driving into Bethpage State Park felt comfortable for Glover, even under a gray sky that made it seem even colder and wetter than it was. It feels less like the PGA Championship than stops at Riviera and Pebble Beach in the cold, coastal air of California.

But this is where he became a major champion in 2009, and that hasn't left him.

"I'm in every way a different person than 10 years ago, but I can still lean on all of that," he said. "I still get comfortable when I walk into the clubhouse or drive through the gate. It's just that calming feeling. It's almost like how I imagine some guys feel driving down Magnolia Lane at Augusta that have had success there. It's just like an automatic deep breath, like I've done it here. Let's see what we can do again."

For at least a few days, Glover and everyone else will be doing it with a rain suit.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Boston 2, Carolina 0

Boston 5, Carolina 2

Tuesday: at Carolina

Thursday: at Carolina

AFN-Sports52, 2 a.m. Friday CET; 9 a.m.

Friday JKT

x-Saturday: at Boston

x-Monday, May 20: at Carolina

x-Wednesday, May 22: at Boston

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Jose 1, St. Louis 1

San Jose 6, St. Louis 3

Monday: St. Louis 4, San Jose 2

Wednesday: at St. Louis

AFN-Sports52, 2 a.m. Thursday CET; 9

a.m. Thursday JKT

Friday: at St. Louis

AFN-Sports52, 2 a.m. Saturday CET; 9

a.m. Saturday JKT

Sunday: at San Jose

x-Tuesday, May 21: at St. Louis

x-Thursday, May 23: at San Jose

Monday

Blues 4, Sharks 2

St. Louis	1	2	1-4
San Jose	0	2	0-2
First Period—1. St. Louis, Schwartz 3 (Tarasenko, Edmondson), 2:34.			
Second Period—2. St. Louis, Dunn 2 (O'Reilly, Perron), 4:16. 3. San Jose, Couture 12, 4:55 (Sh). 4. San Jose, Couture 13 (Meier), 6:56. 5. St. Louis, Bortuzzo 1 (Bouzak, Edmondson), 16:34.			
Third Period—1. St. Louis, Sundqvist 3 (Steen, Pietrangolo), 16:52.			
Shots on Goal—St. Louis 6-9-10—25.			
San Jose 9-6-11—26.			
Goals by opportunity—St. Louis 0 of 5; San Jose 0 of 2.			
Goalies—St. Louis, Binnington 9-6 (26 shots-24 saves). San Jose, Jones 9-6 (25-21).			
A—17,562 (17,562). T—2:22.			

Scoring leaders

PLAYOFFS / Through Monday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Logan Couture, SJ	16	13	6	19
Brent Burns, SJ	16	10	16	16
Brad Marchand, BOS	15	5	10	15
Tommy Hertl, SJ	15	5	10	15
Mikko Rantanen, COL	12	6	8	14
Timo Meier, SJ	16	5	9	14
Jaden Schwartz, STL	15	4	13	13
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	12	6	7	13
Erik Karlsson, SJ	16	10	13	13
Charlie Coyle, BOS	15	6	6	12
David Pastrnak, BOS	15	6	6	12
Mark Stone, VEG	17	6	6	12
David Krejci, BOS	15	4	8	12
Alex Pietrangolo, STL	15	2	10	12
8 tied with 11 pts.				

Calendar

May 27-June 1—NHL scouting combine, Buffalo, N.Y.
 June 15—Last possible day for Stanley Cup Final.
 June 20—NHL general managers meetings, Vancouver, British Columbia.
 June 21-22—NHL Draft, Vancouver, British Columbia.
 July 1—Free agency begins noon ET.
 Oct. 26—Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic, Calgary vs. Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatchewan.

St. Louis' celebration song has Philadelphia bar origins

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

The Boston Red Sox have "Sweet Caroline," the Chicago Blackhawks have "Chelsea Dagger" and the old Hartford Whalers had "Brass Bonanza."

The St. Louis Blues? They have "Gloria," the 1982 hit song for Laura Branigan that has improbably become the celebration song for a team that won 29 of 43 games to go from last in the NHL to the playoffs and all the way to the Western Conference finals against San Jose.

If that seems odd, consider this: "Gloria" became St. Louis craze in part because of a bar in South Philadelphia. Jacks NYB, a private club in the middle of Flyers country, is where five Blues players happened to watch the Eagles-Beats playoff game Jan. 6 and, well, things happened.

When the players arrived at the table-in-the-wall with a locked front door, they were greeted



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The St. Louis Blues adopted Laura Branigan's song "Gloria" in January after hearing it at a private South Philadelphia bar.

with "Let's go Flyers!" chants and some ribbing, but quickly assimilated with the crowd, cheers in hand. A club member kept yelling, "Play Gloria!" and

DJ Matt Cella obliged by putting on Branigan's catchy hit every commercial break.

"They just went nuts when they heard it, and we loved watching

SAN JOSE, Calif. — After the San Jose Sharks relied on a usual suspect to tie the game, the St. Louis Blues took back momentum with a tiebreaking goal from a most unlikely source.

Defenseman Robert Bortuzzo scored his first career postseason goal late in the second period that helped the Blues overcome another big game from San Jose's Logan Couture with a 4-2 victory over the Sharks on Monday night that tied the Western Conference finals at one game apiece.

"It's not really my game but it's something that goes in the back of your mind," said Bortuzzo, who had scored only 14 goals in 365 regular-season and playoff games before breaking through against the Sharks.

"Jaden (Schwartz) will remember, I told him if I do score a playoff goal you'll like the celebration. You never can plan what you're going to do. It's just a rush of emotion. It's an intense game out there. That's all it is, emotion coming to the surface."

After the surprising goal, Bortuzzo pumped his fist, let out a yell, and held his arms out wide for the embrace from his appreciative teammates, who needed the momentum back in their favor after Couture scored twice in a span of less than two minutes to erase a 2-0 deficit for San Jose.

Schwartz, Vince Dunn and Oskar Sundqvist also scored and Jordan Binnington made 23 saves to send the Blues home for Game 3 on Wednesday night tied in the series.

"Pretty solid game tonight," Binnington said. "We had a good start, they were disciplined. When they tied it up, we were composed. That's really important, this time of year especially. We enjoyed the moment and competed hard until the end."

Couture scored his goals in a span of 1:59, giving him an NHL-leading 13 this postseason.

Martin Jones made 21 saves for San Jose.



BEN MAROIT/AP

The St. Louis Blues' Robert Bortuzzo, left, celebrates with teammate Robert Thomas after scoring the tying goal against the Sharks during the second period of Game 2 of their Western Conference finals Monday in San Jose, Calif. The Blues won 4-2.

it," Blues forward Robby Fabrizi said. "So we just happened to get a win the next day and made it our win song."

The Blues already had a song — "Runaround Sue" — but rookie Jordan Binnington's shutout of the Flyers the next day in his first NHL start coincided with the team's turnaround. Hockey players are particularly superstitious, so "Gloria" has become something of a sensation.

"They weren't looking for a song that night," Jacks NYB member Jerry Foschini said. "This is one of them things that never in a million years could be planned. It's serendipity."

Long before Fabrizi and teammates Robert Bortuzzo, Alexander Steen, Joel Edmundson and Jaden Schwartz heard "Gloria" (over and over again) that night

after an invite from friend Larry Flowers, members of the Jacks club made it their song as they prepared to march in and compete in the city's annual Mum-

mers Parade. When the Jacks won their first place in their division, they played the song all over the neighborhood to celebrate.

"If we don't win first place, we're probably not having an Eagles party like that five days later and 'Gloria' would have probably died because it got on our nerves so much from the summertime," club co-founder Mike Montecalvo said.

It's been fun for Jacks, too, some 900 miles from St. Louis. An orange and black Flyers pennant hangs on the wall at Jacks but is dwarfed by the blue and gold regalia of the Blues. Even the Philadelphia 76ers' NBA playoff run took a back seat to the members' new favorite team trying to win its first Stanley Cup championship.

"It's like I was at a sports bar in St. Louis," said Brian Lampung, a St. Louis attorney who was in Philadelphia on business and watched a playoff game at Jacks. "It was surreal."

SPORTS



Blues get even

Bortuzzo goal helps lift St. Louis over San Jose in Game 2 » **Page 31**

NBA PLAYOFFS

Milwaukee's best

Bucks have fans dreaming of title after years in the shadows of Packers, Brewers

Giannis Antetokounmpo has helped make the Bucks the hottest ticket in Wisconsin. The state's last pro sports team to win a championship was the NFL's Packers in 2011.

Aaron Gash/AP



By IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

Hunter Trimmel couldn't give away his season tickets to Milwaukee Bucks games five years ago.

Losing season after season made the Bucks almost an afterthought in Wisconsin, where most teams live in the shadow of the Green Bay Packers. But now the Bucks are the hottest ticket in town, with a glittery new arena and a young superstar who has the team knocking on the door of the NBA Finals. Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals against Toronto is Wednesday night.

'Who would have thought that the Packers would be third on the totem pole at this point?'

Tim Stasinoulas
Milwaukee Bucks fan

Trimmel, 37, was among hundreds of fans flocking to the plaza outside Fiserv Forum last week before the Bucks faced Boston in Game 5 of the conference semifinals. The plaza, with plenty of bars and jumbo TV screens for fans who can't get

inside, is part of an atmosphere that Trimmel — a Bucks fan since 1992 — said is a new experience.

"I hate to say it but we felt like a minor league team for a while," Trimmel said.

It's a golden era in Milwaukee: The Bucks are in contention just a year after the Brewers came within one game of going to the World Series, shifting the focus of this sports-crazed state from the beloved Packers to two long-neglected teams suddenly on the rise.

The last Wisconsin professional sports team to win it all was the Packers in 2011.

The Bucks' success has been a long time coming. Their only NBA title came in 1971, when a team featuring legends Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson beat

the Baltimore Bullets.

The Bucks were solid in the 1980s, putting up several 50-win seasons behind stars like Sidney Moncrief, Marques Johnson and Junior Bridgeman before things got brutal in the '90s — six losing seasons, including four where they didn't win more than 30 games.

"There was a generation when they stumbled through the wilderness, and a lot of fans lost interest," said Drew Olson, a long-time Milwaukee sports reporter who now hosts a sports talk radio show. "It was almost to the point that people went to the Bucks games to see the other team."

Olson traced the turnaround to Herb Kohl selling the team in 2014 to Wes Edens

SEE BEST ON PAGE 27

Angels' Ohtani hits first home run of season » **Page 28**



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